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**TODAY**

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**KNIVES AND FAWKES**

Valerie Grove hears about Lady Antonia Fraser's grisly new book, **PAGE 17**



**NINETIES MAN**

HOW TO DRESS IN STYLE FOR A SNIP

**MAGAZINE**



## England return to five nations as TV clash is settled

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE five nations' championship, the oldest and most popular competition in the world of rugby union, was saved yesterday at a meeting between representatives of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

However, seven senior figures from the home unions met until 2.10 am yesterday in the offices of the International Rugby Football Board in Bristol to achieve a resolution. The meeting, which took place with the knowledge of France, "resulted in an accord which has saved the five nations' championship for the coming season and for the foreseeable future," a statement

said. The resolution of a potentially disastrous dispute for the European game will be welcomed by rugby supporters throughout the world, though many may ask why such a damaging debate lasted so long. It was generally recognised that the break-up of the championship would remove the most attractive and commercially viable of competitions from the sporting calendar.

"The deal is fair and equitable for England," said Colin Herdridge, the RFU treasurer, although full details will not be revealed until Monday. However it is understood that the union's broadcasting deal with BSkyB has not been compromised — after this season half the five-nations matches are likely to be seen live on a terrestrial channel and half on satellite — nor has the money promised to the top 24 clubs in England been affected.

is a major achievement by the negotiators. It is a weight off our shoulders and a help that we are not fighting battles on so many fronts." The boycott, by 42 members of England's 43-strong training squad, affected preparations for the pre-Christmas internationals against Italy, the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina. The players responded to appeals for support from their employers, the 24 top clubs who make up the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, the exception being the uncapped Coventry prop, Rob Hardwick, who

declared himself entitled to make up his own mind on the issue. The sport in Britain was, and remains, largely unprepared for the advent just over a year ago of professionalism. In the wake of the game going open, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), governing body for rugby in England, negotiated a five-year agreement worth £87.5m with BSkyB, the satellite broadcasting company which is part-owned by News International, owners of The Times.



"It's called rugby — all you need is lawyers and accountants and TV rights"

Back from the brink, page 44

## Major called as witness in libel case

By ALICE THOMSON AND FRANCES GIBB

JOHN MAJOR and Michael Heseltine have been asked to appear as witnesses in a £1 million libel case starting on the eve of the Conservative Party conference next month.



Hamilton: suing over "media witchhunt"

They have been subpoenaed by The Guardian newspaper, along with the Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler and the former Chief Whip Richard Ryder, to give evidence in a case being brought by Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP for Tatton.

getting the law changed so that he can proceed with his case, which was halted when it first came to court last year. Having done so, the hearing had been expected to go ahead next year and The Guardian's Editor, Alan Rusbridger, was at pains to point out yesterday that it had been brought forward to coincide with the Tory conference at Mr Hamilton's behest.

been trying for months to persuade Mr Hamilton to settle out of court, but his friends said: "He hasn't overturned 300 years of constitutional history to chicken out now."

Mr Hamilton sought to change the law after difficulties relating to parliamentary privilege led to the case being delayed last summer. He argued that rules laid down in the 300-year-old Bill of Rights prevented him giving evidence on statement he had made in the Commons, and claimed that he could clear his name and resurrect his career only if he were allowed to waive his privilege.



President Yeltsin, looking sickly, sips tea during the televised interview yesterday

### £114m Morgan holdings sold

Holdings worth £114 million were sold by private investors when dealings in the three Morgan Grenfell unit trusts being investigated by Imro restarted. The price of the funds fell about 35 per cent. In the previous six months, they had fallen by 14 per cent. Morgan Grenfell held out no promise of compensation for investors. **Page 23**

### Child sex inquiry

Police have asked 400 former residents of a children's home in Cardiff to telephone the police urgently on a confidential line, as they begin investigating alleged sexual and physical abuse there. A team of ten male and female detectives will be answering the calls in an attempt to crack a suspected ring of child molesters in South Wales. **Page 5**

### Turkey attacks rebel Kurds in safe area

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

TURKISH warplanes attacked suspected bases of rebel Turkish Kurds inside the Kurdish safe area of northern Iraq last night. Farther south, near Arbil, renewed fighting erupted between rival Iraqi Kurdish factions. Turkey described the air raids as a limited operation but they were seen as a prelude to a cross-border ground offensive. The raids followed an announcement from Ankara that it would carve out a buffer zone up to six miles deep and 200 miles long inside northern Iraq to guard against attacks by some 3,000 fighters of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, the PKK. Turkey insisted that it has no designs on Iraqi territory.

Allies split, page 7

## Yeltsin admits to Russia he needs a heart operation

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin announced yesterday that he would undergo a heart operation later this month to treat an affliction that has dogged his presidency for more than a year and left in doubt his ability to rule Russia.

Yeltsin looked puffy-faced and sickly. He spoke slowly and at times seemed to lose track of what he was trying to say.

In a startling announcement, the first of its kind in Russian history by a head of state, the Kremlin leader said in a television interview that he had decided to opt for the operation after doctors had diagnosed heart disease and offered him the choice of treatment or bypass surgery. "I want to have a society based on truth here, that means no longer hiding what we used to hide," said the Russian leader, referring to his decision to go public about his illness and the operation.

The impression left by the interview is bound to renew fears that the Kremlin leader, re-elected to office in July, will not be able to serve out his four-year term. There are already distinct signs of a power vacuum at the top of Russian politics and the prospect of his further absence from office could ignite a leadership struggle.

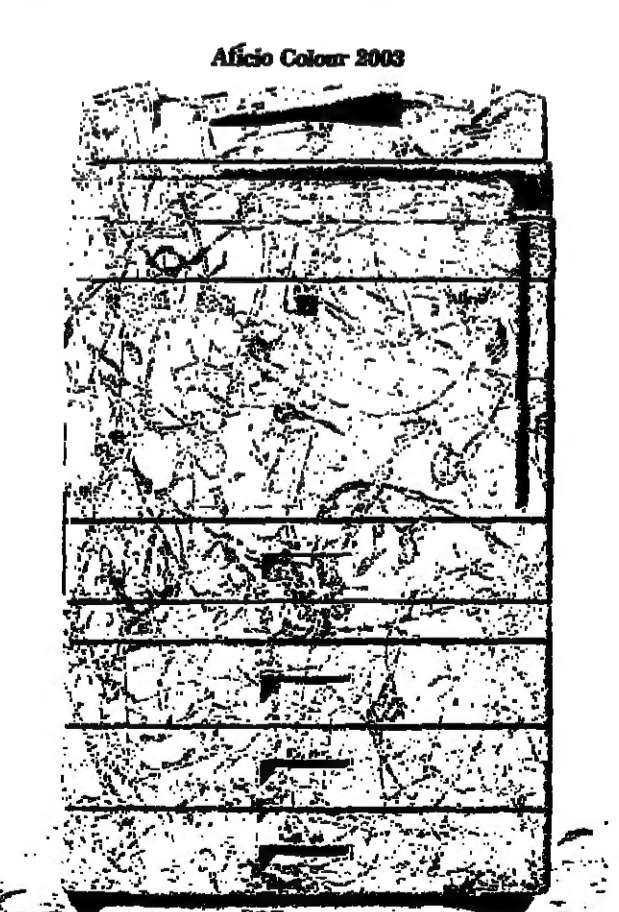
"I have undergone routine checks and during these checks they have found something wrong with my heart. Recommendations of doctors, our doctors, were for an operation or to work in a passive way," he said. "I do not want to go anywhere abroad. Our Moscow Cardiological Centre is capable of performing such operations."

But the Kremlin leader was forced to break with the tradition of secrecy around the health of the head of state in an effort to silence growing speculation about his illness and rumours that he was physically unfit to rule.

During the interview, conducted at a presidential dacha north of Moscow, President

President Yeltsin suffered two heart seizures last year, but managed to recover to fight an energetic election campaign earlier this year. However, he has practically disappeared from public since July. He did emerge briefly for his inauguration ceremony last month, but otherwise has been seen in carefully edited television shots only.

Kremlin struggle, page 12  
Dr Stottford, page 12  
Leading article, page 19



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## Researchers may have to shell out for piddock project

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A RESEARCH project to find ways to raise luminous creatures in captivity has come to a standstill because the scientists paid themselves no salaries. Dr Robert and Dr Jan Knight, of Knight Scientific in Plymouth, were given £500,000 by the Department of Trade and Industry to raise the piddock, a creature rather like a mussel which lives in holes along the sea-shore.

enable its luminous material, pholasin, to be used in medical experiments.



The piddock: glowing

Dr Robert Knight is a retired teacher, so the couple were able to live on his pensions. To speed the project, they left money notionally paid by the DTI as salary in the company — with the department's agreement, they say.

The research was on the verge of completion when the department said that not paying themselves a salary was against the rules. It has refused to pay the last part of the agreed grant, and has threatened to sue.

Dr Robert Knight insisted that the Knights pay back up to £60,000. "We haven't got the money," Dr Robert Knight said yesterday. "It's been spent on the project. Now we have been forced to lay off four people we employed. If we are forced to pay back the money it would be the end of our company and

the end of us. We might have to sell our house."

The DTI would not comment.

Pholasin is sensitive to the state of the white cells in the blood, and so might be used as a sensitive monitor of the development of an illness. When the white cells are activated to fight disease, they produce free radicals — highly reactive species — which make the pholasin glow.

Tests at the Neckar Hospital in Paris had proved that the method worked, and Professor Frank McCapra of Sussex University, an expert in bioluminescence, said: "The prospects of profits are very high indeed."

As the project proceeded, it received commendations for good management from the DTI office in Plymouth. A secondary benefit of the programme would have been to protect the piddock, whose proper name, *Pholus dactylus*, means "finger lurking in a hole". Once so plentiful that Pliny wrote in amazement of the glow left on the hands and mouths of people who ate it, it is now extinct in the Mediterranean and is very rare in Britain.

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## Labour attacked for 'irresponsible' proposal to cut basic tax rate to 10p in the pound

## Clarke boasts of families' £700 gain under Tories

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE led the Tory assault on Labour's tax policy yesterday, claiming that the average family will be £700 a year better off by the general election.

The Chancellor prompted speculation of tax cuts in the Budget by giving an upbeat assessment of the economy. Meanwhile the Prime Minister sought to kill speculation of a snap election by insisting he would not go to the country until next year.

A buoyant Mr Clarke reiterated the Government's commitment to lowering the basic tax rate to 20p in the pound and derided Gordon Brown's proposal of a 10p rate as "irresponsible". But Mr

Clarke refused to rule out increases in indirect taxation, suggesting that he still has little room for manoeuvre.

Unveiling a new "demon eyes" poster on the theme of New Labour, New Taxes, with the eyes peeping out of a woman's purse, the Chancellor said: "As night follows day, the tax burden would rise if Britain ever elected a Labour government. Labour have got their eyes on the average family's £700 a year of extra spending money."

Mr Clarke and Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, argued that new Labour was more "cunning and sly" than its previous incarnation. The two men

made clear that Labour's tax plans would be made just as big an issue in the next election as in the last.

They highlighted hidden taxes such as the "tartan tax" in Scotland, the "teenage tax" — referring to Labour's review on child benefit for 16-19 year olds — the "windfall tax" on privatised utilities and the "private health tax" — Labour's plans to remove tax relief on private medical insurance for pensioners.

Mr Clarke said that Treasury figures showed that by next year the annual take-home pay of the average family would have risen £700 in real terms since just before the last general election.

Mr Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, retorted by saying that the Tories were still lying about Labour on tax. After unveiling Labour's own poster on the 22 new Tory taxes since 1992, he said: "Today Kenneth Clarke and John Major are themselves descending into the lies and smears that have characterised the Tory party chairman's summer campaign."

Mr Brown also seized on Mr Clarke's failure to rule out further increases in indirect taxation. "Once again, Mr Clarke has confirmed his addiction to VAT and his inten-



The eyes have it again: Brian Mawhinney and Kenneth Clarke present the latest poster in the Tory campaign

tion to put VAT on food, children's clothes and newspapers," he said.

At a news conference yesterday, Mr Clarke backed the principle of moving from direct to indirect taxation. But he fuelled speculation that the 20p band may be extended in the November Budget by arguing that getting a quarter of the population onto a 20p rate had helped to "dynamise" the British economy.

Insisting that the Tories

were now back to their tax-cutting agenda, he said: "I have made absolutely clear that the target is to deliver a starting rate of 20p. It is credible, within sight, and will be achieved as long as public finances allow it."

In response to Mr Clarke's claim that the average family had £700 more to spend this year than at the last election, Mr Brown said Treasury Secretary William Waldegrave had stated that

living standards fell last year. Mr Brown said: "We know that people are paying £2,000 more in tax since 1992. We know they have suffered 22 tax rises, that VAT has been imposed on fuel, National Insurance has been raised, and mortgage tax relief cut, despite all the promises made in 1992 by the Conservatives that they would cut taxes year on year."

Mr Clarke infuriated Euro-sceptic Tories by sup-

porting a letter from businessmen warning John Major against yielding to pressure to rule out joining a single currency in the next Parliament.

Mr Clarke told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that he fully supported the letter, from the chairman and chief executives of 15 international companies with combined sales of £150 billion, which said a decision to stay outside monetary union would be "deeply damaging".



Gordon Brown and the new Labour poster that accuses the Tories of 22 tax rises since 1992

## Bombastic exchanges obscure truth about the public finances

THE propaganda barrage between the parties on tax is vacuous, intellectually dishonest and no guide to what anyone will pay in tax after the election. Labour is trying to avoid losing the 1992 election again, while the Tories are ignoring the huge tax increases of 1993-95.

The Tories are repeating their "tax bombshell" campaign of 1992, alleging that Labour's spending plans imply big tax increases. Ever since Gordon Brown became Shadow Chancellor four years ago, his main aim has been to remove the party's high spending and tax image. In one sense, that has been achieved. The pre-manifesto turned

the screw on new spending commitments apart from ones financed by transfers from other programmes or from the windfall tax on the utilities. This has enabled Tony Blair to claim that there are no proposals that require rises in personal tax.

There is no Labour spending iceberg as in 1992. But there are several loose ends, like the utilities tax and the increasingly hypothetical question of a tax-raising Scottish parliament. Some of the Tory attempts to conjure up new Labour tax threats are far-fetched and others distort the meaning of tax. To describe Mr Brown's suggestion

about reallocating child benefit paid to some 16 to 18-year-olds as a "teenage tax" is a misuse of language. It would mean, for instance, that the Government's changes in invalidity benefit could be described as a disability tax.

Labour may, however, have made a tactical mistake by repeating its long-term aspiration of having a starting tax rate of 15, or preferably 10, per cent. Even though the cost would depend on the width of the starting band, this inevitably raises questions about when, how much

and how it might be financed. But it is rich even for the rumbustious Kenneth Clarke to boast about the average family having £700 each year more to spend on top of inflation after paying their taxes when the Tories believe it is individuals, and not governments, who create such increases in wealth. The Tories' main contribution to this rise was cutting interest rates from the levels to which they had previously had to be increased to curb inflation.

The real question is not whether Labour's plans are genuine but whether they can be maintained. This is, in part, a commentary on the state of the public finances under the Tories. Labour's pre-manifesto involves no increase in spending above existing plans, but these already imply much slower rates of growth on, for example, standards of provision would fall unless big savings can be found from elsewhere. This is incredible given the instinctive desire of many Labour MPs to spend more.

Instead of trying to repeat the muddling of 1992, the parties need to explain whether their spending plans can be sustained without

higher taxes, especially since the big tax increases of 1993-95 failed to eliminate the core Budget deficit. Whichever party is in office will find it hard to hold the tax burden at the current level, let alone produce a big cut, unless draconian, and so far unrevealed, measures are taken to rein back the public sector. That is what the Tories should be addressing, as the Liberal Democrats have been arguing from the side of the battlefield. The state of the public finances will determine the prospects for taxes far more than the recent bombastic exchanges.

PETER RIDDELL

## Ethiopian wins right to challenge benefit curb

An Ethiopian woman won the right yesterday to attempt another challenge to the Government's curb on benefits for asylum seekers after claiming that she had been unlawfully barred from income support. The woman, known only as Ms T, claimed asylum in February, before the Asylum and Immigration Bill became law. She and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants claimed that the Act could not be applied retrospectively. If she wins, 5,000 to 10,000 asylum applicants could be entitled to urgent payments while their applications are determined.

## Patient callers

Emergency telephone lines to provide advice to patients seeking immediate hospital care should be introduced to help to ease the pressure on casualty departments, the BMA said. The hotline, staffed by nurses, would advise patients whether they needed to come in, go to outpatients or to their GP.

## IRA appeal lost

The Federal Court of Justice in Germany upheld sentences of nine to 10 years against three IRA terrorists, Pauline and Donagh O'Kane and Patrick Murray, for bombing a British army barracks at Osnabrück in 1989. They had been convicted of attempted murder and spying with intent to sabotage.

## Aid for girl

A 14-year-old from Teesside became the second schoolgirl to be granted legal aid to take her mother to court over her rights to see her brother and sister after leaving home to live with an aunt. On Wednesday the Teesside Family Panel dealt with a similar application from a 16-year-old girl from the same area.

## Object lessons

Schoolchildren are to be given lessons in the art of complaining in an effort to improve the standard of public services. Teaching material aimed at 16 to 17-year-olds is expected to be sent out to schools before the end of the year to be used in citizenship classes.

## Rights ruling

The Government was defeated in Europe yesterday when the European Commission on Human Rights ruled that it acted unfairly in reviewing life sentences. It ruled that the delay of 13 months in reviewing the case of a man jailed for murder had been a breach of his human rights.

## Partial eclipse

A partial eclipse of the sun next month will be visible across Britain. The eclipse is due to begin at 1.02 pm on October 12, with up to half of the sun cast in shadow by 2.18 pm. A total solar eclipse, visible from southern England, is scheduled for August 11, 1999.

## Medal for poet

The Queen's 1996 Gold Medal for Poetry has been awarded to Peter Redgrove. Mr Redgrove, 64, from Fulmouth, a prolific poet, novelist and playwright for BBC radio, was recommended for the medal by a committee headed by the Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes.

## Stalker freed

A stalker whose victim suffered from clinical depression after he slashed her tyres and sent her more than 800 letters has been freed on probation. Gaetano Constanza, 32, who became obsessed with Louise Wilson, 23, had served two years on remand.

## Skateboard ban

A winebar owner was found guilty of driving while disqualified after he was stopped riding a motorised skateboard to work. Robert Sawyer, 31, from Fulham, west London, rode a 1600 skateboard with a tiny 20cc petrol engine, which police class as a motor vehicle.

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## Wheelchair levy barmy, says Tebbit

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

LORD Tebbit became an unlikely ally in Labour's campaign to remove VAT from wheelchairs and commodes yesterday.

The former Cabinet minister, whose wife was disabled in the Brighton bombing, attacked Customs and Excise for ordering the British Red Cross to charge 17½ per cent tax on hiring the items. Labour has set out the decision as part of its new poster campaign using the slogan: "Same old Tories, same old lies: 22 new Tory taxes since 1992."

Many of the 70,000 people who hire equipment because of accidents or short-term illness, now have to pay an extra £1 a week for a wheelchair or 50p for a commode.

Lord Tebbit said: "It seems plain barmy to me. Here we are 23 years after VAT was imposed, and the Excise people are saying that the British Red Cross have had it wrong for 23 years. People don't hire wheelchairs or commodes for fun. I hope the Chancellor will tell them that they have got it wrong."

## Straw promises polls on 13 issues

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR leaders committed themselves yesterday to conducting up to 13 referendums within five years. The Labour leadership also made clear that the rolling programme of public votes on key issues will pave the way for more local, regional and national polls to gauge opinion.

Labour's decision to underline its commitment to referendums comes days after fierce Tory assaults on the party's plans to hold two polls in Scotland over the setting up of a Scottish Assembly.

John Major intensified the attacks on the Scottish referendum plans this week and Labour moved yesterday to kill off suggestions that the party might back away from staging plebiscites on wide-ranging issues.

Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, said the moves to hold polls more frequently, together with a raft of other constitutional reforms, would "give people a say where one is denied today."

Senior Tories denounced as "muddled and ill thought-out" a wide-ranging package of

reforms that includes plans to strip hereditary peers of their power to vote in the House of Lords. Controversial plans to hold twin Scottish referendums on devolution and tax-raising powers for an assembly will mark only the start of a hectic referendum programme in Labour's first term of office.

The party confirmed that a further poll could be held for a devolved assembly in Wales, an elected body in London, proportional representation, a single currency in Europe, and whether to set up elected regional assemblies in seven English regions.

The plans to hold frequent referendums on the setting up of new assemblies are seen by Labour leaders as the key to increasing public confidence on central and local government. Mr Straw said: "We want to ensure that when these institutions are established they really have the consent of the people they are representing."

The Labour Party said that no voter was likely to take part in more than four polls.

## Cook and Archer canvass expatriate vote in Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ROBIN COOK, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, have been touring Israel in a battle to win over the estimated 35,000 people living there who remain eligible to vote in Britain.

"Anyone who has lived abroad for less than 20 years and remained on the electoral register can now vote by proxy," said Yigal Levine, managing director of the British Immigrants Association in Tel Aviv. "That is why we are suddenly receiving visits from politicians of this stature. It is nice to feel important. It is nice to be wooed."

Before Lord Archer arrived for a tour this week that has

included public meetings in Jerusalem, Netanya and Ramat Gan, as well as a speech to the Israel, Britain and the Commonwealth Association in Tel Aviv. Stuart Pollak, director of the Conservative Friends of Israel explained: "Everyone is of the belief that the significant number of British voters in Israel is important."

Not to be outdone, Labour dispatched Mr Cook for a tour ending today which included talks with Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, and other senior figures, as well as a crowded meeting for potential expatriate voters at Labour Party headquarters in Tel Aviv. His visit is to be followed by a

letter from Tony Blair to every Israel-based British citizen urging them to vote Labour.

"I only bumped into Lord Archer once — as I was going into see Mr Netanyahu and he was coming out, having only seen one of his aides," Mr Cook said. "I rather relished that."

In Britain, Labour is developing a project, under Derek Fatchett, Labour's chief Middle East spokesman, and Andrew Hood, a senior aide to Mr Cook, to "build bridges" between the party and the Jewish community. According to the Jewish Chronicle: "The moves reflect a growing realisation that, while small in number, Jewish voters are significantly represented in key marginal seats."

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## Nobleman was buried with Roman board game designed to last an eternity

## Opening gambit took 2,000 years to emerge

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A MYSTERIOUS board game that kept the Romans amused down the centuries has been found laid out and ready to play in a 2,000-year-old burial site in Essex.

The find is remarkable because, although there is plenty of evidence of Roman games using boards and pieces, a complete game with the pieces set out has never before been found.

It also gives the strongest clues yet about how to play one of the most popular Roman games, whose rules were never committed to

paper. "It is an immensely exciting discovery," said Philip Crummy, of the Colchester Archaeological Trust, who is directing the dig at Stanway, where the ancient British nobility were buried.

"It is the first time that a game like this has been found virtually intact, and with all the pieces in place, just as they would have been in around the year AD 50. What makes it so special is that we have found the outline of the board as well. The original wood has rotted away and crumbled to dust but the edges, which were

made of metal, are still there. We know that the Romans mainly played two types of games: one was a form of ludo, with a dice, and the other was like chess or draughts." The Stanway find is thought to be the latter, and maybe a version of Latrunculi, or little soldiers.

The game was buried alongside the bones of its owner, apparently to provide entertainment in the afterlife. It consisted of a hinged wooden chequerboard and 20 pieces, about the size of large chocolate drops. Ten were made of

blue glass and ten of white. The first move had already been made. Last night Mr Crummy confirmed that another piece had been found, suggesting that there were 24 pieces in all.

"What is a wee bit spooky is that all the pieces are set out as if the game were about to start," he said. "They are lined up along each side of the board, with one blue and one white piece advanced."

He said that finding the twenty-first piece was "a bit of a blow at first, but it will be good if we find the rest of the pieces. A total of 24 pieces would fit the pattern of other games that have been found previously."

The board itself, probably made of maple, has long since disappeared, but metal corners and a hinge in the centre have survived, enabling its size and shape to be worked out. The board was 55 centimetres by 40 (21in by 15in) and the pieces are lined up along the longer sides.

The game is of Roman origin, though the burial site is that of a prominent British aristocrat of the period just before the Roman conquest under Claudius in AD 43. Romans had already been in Britain for almost a century, so it is no surprise to find native Britons playing Roman games.

Dr Irving Finkel, of the British Museum, says that, from descriptions of what Mr Crummy has found, he believes the game to be a version of Latrunculi, a game of strategy played on boards of various sizes. "We have found boards scratched on rocks and drawn on vases," he said. "The Romans never wrote down the rules. They didn't need to; everybody knew them."

"The important thing with this find is that the board and the men have turned up together. I don't think there is another example like that anywhere in the world. It's a very important find."

He said that the object of Latrunculi appeared to have been to trap one of your opponent's pieces between two



Lisa Hepi, an archaeology student, working on the discovery at Stanway, Essex. Twenty of the glass pieces were in place, with the first move already made

of yours, thus taking it. The player left with the final piece was the winner. It was undoubtedly a game of strategy, though much simpler than chess. There was some evidence that part of the board was regarded as a citadel to be taken by the opponent.

"Games travel with soldiers," Dr Finkel said. "They leap across borders. I suspect there were many local versions of this game, but how it

was played we just don't know."

Only a fluke enabled the game to survive with its pieces barely moved from their original position, Mr Crummy said. It had been set up in a shallow box before being buried with the bones and personal possessions of a wealthy and prominent person.

"First we uncovered the whole row of the blue pieces," Mr Crummy said. "We said

"Wouldn't it be great if the white pieces were there as well?" and then, like magic, they appeared."

The site is a quarry owned by Tarmac, which has supported the excavation. Ian Findlater, regional director of Tarmac Quarry Products, said: "We had hoped that the excavations would be successful, but we are amazed at what Philip Crummy and his team have discovered."

## Midair lightning ordeal on jumbo flight

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

SEVERAL Britons were hurt yesterday when an Air France jumbo was struck by lightning over western Africa. Thirty people were injured when the plane, carrying 203 passengers and 18 crew, encountered severe turbulence over Burkina Faso.

Newlyweds Colin and Anne-Marie Conyngham were returning from their honeymoon in Durban. Mrs Conyngham, 25, was hurt when she fell back to the floor of the cabin. Describing her experience yesterday in the arrivals hall at Dublin Airport, she said: "There was only time for a brief warning from an air hostess, speaking in French, and telling us to get our seatbelts locked."

"I didn't have time to do this, and the next thing I knew, I was flying through the air and suddenly came back to the ground with a heavy thud. Then I started saying as many decades of the Rosary as I could remember, while people around me were being thrown around in the storm."

"It was very frightening. Some people were very badly injured. I wouldn't like to go through that again."

The strike was so violent that it displaced television monitors, opened luggage lockers and sent baggage hurtling around the cabin. The aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing at Marseilles.

"I saw a steward thrown through the air like Batman, which is a surprise when you are half asleep," one passenger said. "He threw me into a seat, and attached the seatbelt and then I saw him fly off, disappearing through the ceiling."

The steward said he was thrown on top of the galley and suffered a broken collar bone. "I have never seen this in 17 years of flying," he said.

An elderly French couple were lifted out of their seats and crashed through the false ceiling of the cabin. Robert Schermer, 74, was in a coma yesterday. His wife, Violette, 71, suffered serious head wounds.



Dr Irving Finkel believes that the game was a variant of Latrunculi, or little soldiers, a popular Roman pastime depicted on a vase in the British Museum

## Ancient Egyptians and the Moors may have played too

By NIGEL HAWKES

HOW did the ancient Britons play the game? Ray Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*, believes that he knows. From descriptions of the positions in which the pieces were found, he believes that it is a version of an ancient game called Alquerque, once played by the ancient Egyptians and described in a Moorish manuscript of the 13th century.

"This game was the parent of draughts," he said. "The

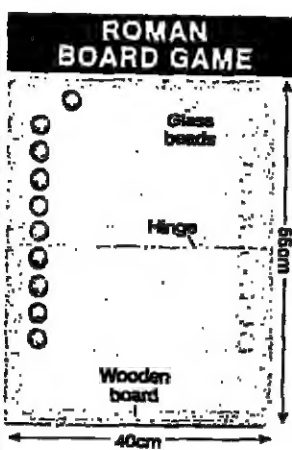
Arab name for it was Qirkat, which some people think was the origin of the word checkers."

Alquerque is a game of strategy and tactics in which both players have an equal number of pieces at the start. Typically this is 12 on either side.

"The pieces are laid out side by side, on the lines rather than the squares," Keene said. "There would also have been diagonal lines, and the pieces can be moved either diagonally or in a straight line. They capture

other pieces by leaping over them. It is clearly the ancestor of draughts."

The game is still played in Madagascar, under the name Fanorona. Keene said that the description was closer to this than to Latrunculi, in which he said there were different numbers of pieces on each side, and not all were of equal weight. "The point is that in Alquerque both players start in a position of absolute equality, which is what we see here. I am pretty sure that is what they have found."



## Pots and pans chief broke UN sanctions

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A COMPANY director was fined £10,000 yesterday for his part in an elaborate sanctions-busting trade to import cheap enamel pots and pans from Serbia into British stores.

Ramesh Khemlani, 39, managing director of a kitchenware company, admitted conspiring to import goods contrary to United Nations sanctions. His company, Corrina Housewares, of north Manchester, was fined £25,000 plus £30,000 costs. Much of the cookware is sold in big chainstores such as Argos and Woolworth's under trade names such as Wild Tulip and Camelia.

More than £1 million worth of pots and pans were smuggled into Britain between July 1992 and July 1994 along a complicated route designed to throw Customs and Excise off the scent. Maidstone Crown Court was told.

Khemlani, of Bowdon, Cheshire, was given 60 days to pay, with six months' jail imposed in default.

## Robber's number is up after taking a shine to hostage

By LYN JENKINS

A TEENAGE girl held hostage with her family for four hours by a masked gang secretly dated one of the robbers for three weeks before telling police.

Charlotte Lovell, 16, caught the eye of Wayne Girvan as he kept her captive in the kitchen of her home while other members of the gang demanded the cash takings from the bookmakers where her foster-brother was manager. Girvan scribbled his mobile phone number on a piece of paper and added the symbol \$ to denote his nickname, Dollar.

Girvan, 19, apologised to the family as the gang left and offered to repair the telephone wires that had been ripped out. Michael Greaves, for the prosecution, told Northampton Crown Court: "It appears he had taken a bit of a shine to her." He said that Charlotte "rather unwisely" went out with Girvan several times before she told police.

The raid, on the day of the Grand National, happened after Jason Minney, 29, was

followed home after leaving Tote Bookmakers in Northampton, where he was manager. They burst in armed with a pistol, knife and cash and held Mr Minney, his mother, Jo, 36, and her foster-daughter, Charlotte, hostage.

One of the gang demanded the combination of the safe in the shop. He pressed the gun against Mr Minney's head and said: "We have been following you. We have had a tip-off there is £35,000 in the safe." They took him to the betting shop, taking a taxi after their car broke down, and escaped with £5,000.

Girvan, from Overstone, Northampton, admitted robbery and false imprisonment. John Price, QC, the Recorder, jailed him for six years on the first charge and three years on the second, to run concurrently.

Geraldine Chapman, for the defence, said Girvan had been "roped in" hours before the robbery by the two older members of the gang, who were still at large.

## Licence to broadcast for Oxford graduates

By CAROL MIDDLEY

TWO Oxford University graduates celebrated yesterday after being awarded Britain's first full broadcasting licence for a student radio station.

Philip Weiss, 24, and Nick Molden, 22, who operate from offices opposite their old college, Christ Church, proved to the Radio Authority over a 28-day trial period that their station was viable and innovative. Michael Heseltine, Tony Benn, Esther Rantzen and Ian Hislop have been interviewed on Oxygen FM, which features debate and music.

Oxygen FM's broadcasting team said 40 per cent of Oxford's 60,000 students tuned in to the station. It has promised to give airtime to student bands and to help to break new talent. Mr Weiss, who gained his politics, philosophy and economics degree last year, said: "We hope to set the standard for a new generation of student FM listeners in Britain and across Europe." Oxygen FM will have five staff and operate 24 hours a day.

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Bill and Ben Wright and the *Watch with Mother* characters inspired by their childhood pranks



## Royal Mail unmoved by Bill and Ben's appeal

THE writer who created Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men had a dig at the Royal Mail yesterday for overlooking her characters in a series of stamps commemorating children's television.

Hilda Brabham, 82, modelled the mischievous pair on her brothers Bill and Ben Wright and their childhood

Sooty instead. "It's disgraceful," he said. "Bill and Ben is the most famous and popular children's programme ever."

The Flowerpot stories, broadcast once a week in the BBC's *Watch with Mother* slot, began in the 1950s. In Castleford, Yorkshire, where the Wright brothers ran a greengrocer's shop, it was well

living in Lewes, East Sussex, described the Royal Mail's decision as terrible. She said: "Not only are the stories famous throughout Yorkshire, but also worldwide."

The Royal Mail said that the stamps, which also feature Muffin the Mule, the Clangers, Stingray and Dangermouse.

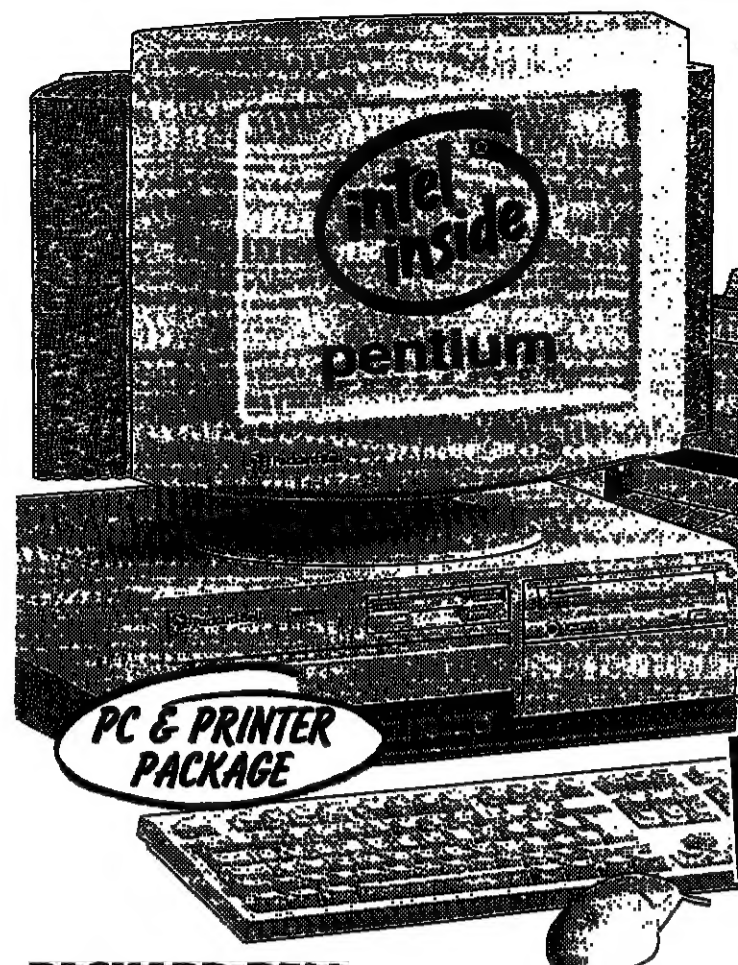


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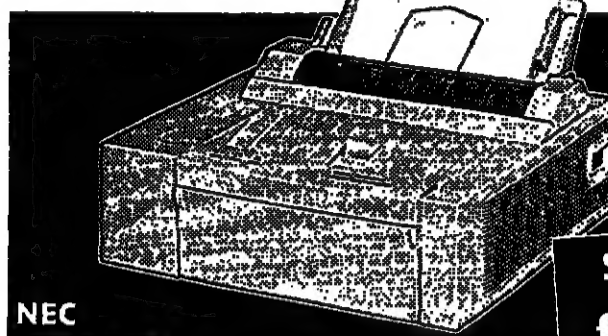
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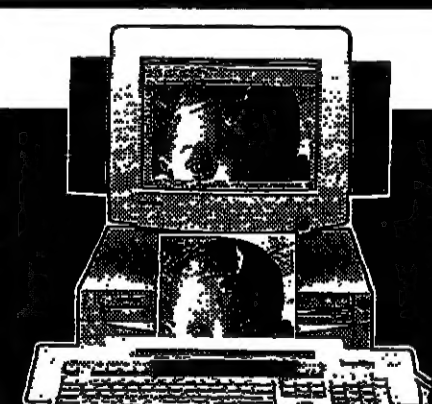
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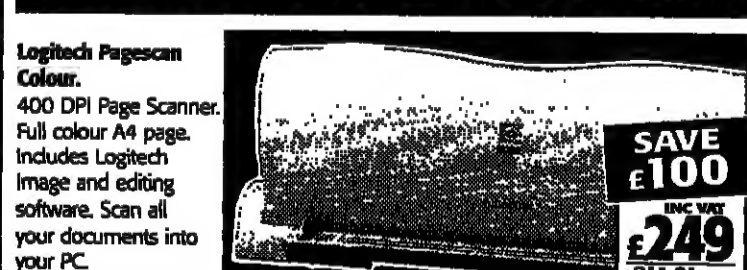
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Cleric loses  
in women priest



## Hotline opened for ex-residents of children's home

**By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT**

Coghlan, who was born in Aberdeen, started work in the Passport Office and married his wife, Maureen, in 1963 when both were Foreign Office clerical workers. They divorced 30 years ago. His sons, Andrew and Steven, accompanied him to court, but made no comment afterwards.

...ent evasion of the prohibition on importing obscene material under the 1979 Customs and Excise Management Act. When interviewed, he admitted knowing the tapes were indecent but claimed he did not know they contained paedophile material and insisted that he always fast-

Coghlan, a fluent linguist



**BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT**

Tony Colpoys, churchwarden, said: "Like many small parishes our church has great difficulty in providing regular organ accompaniment. Even when they are available, organists want £30 a time, which is difficult for

expert organ playing is such that that will always be valued for its own sake," he says. "We do realise that in some places there is a 'shortage of organists and we are doing our best by various means to try to encourage more people to play the instrument."

**By RUTH GLEDHILL**

He said: "Your lordships face today the choice of regarding the oath as a decorative piece of medievalism or accepting what I say." He said the Church had used a "wretched, piffling" canon to engineer the introduction of

Afterwards, an unrepentant Mr Williamson said he had lost faith in British justice. He said: "I shall not take the slightest bit of notice. I am here for Christ, not their silly wintings." He would go to the House of Lords and

[illegible]

Detective Chief Superintendent Phil Jones said he realised the inquiry could be traumatic for the young people involved, "but I am appealing to them: please, take the opportunity to contact us."

☐ The number to phone is  
01223-571535



Tories 'adopting once-derided ILEA practices'

# Schools will be told to target failing black pupils

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BLACK pupils are to be monitored from the ages of five to 16 under a ten-point plan to combat their declining performance at school.

Ministers acted yesterday after school inspectors gave warning that a growing number of pupils of Afro-Caribbean origin, boys in particular, were falling further behind other ethnic groups. Ofsted, the schools inspection agency, said that schools attempting to create a level playing field for all pupils with "colour-blind" policies were not doing enough to encourage black children. Children of Indian origin were performing much better at school than was the case ten years ago, often better than white children of the same age, Ofsted said.

Cheryl Gillan, an Education Minister, said the findings were a cause for concern. "The Government takes it very seriously and is determined to tackle it. We owe all our children, whatever their back-

ground, the best possible start in life."

Ofsted will be asked to draw up a specific action plan to improve the performance of black pupils. School inspections will have an added focus on racial harassment and stereotyping after evidence in yesterday's report of continuing conflict between white teachers and boys of Afro-Caribbean origin. Statistics are already collected on the ethnic composition of each school but the Government will consult on extra ways of monitoring the progress of ethnic minority pupils.

Mrs Gillan said she was considering how to cut the high rate of expulsions of black pupils, six times that of white pupils. Changes to teacher training were being considered, so that the mainly white trainees were better prepared for the multicultural classroom. A task force is being set up with the Commission for Racial Equality. Chris



Gillan: promised that Government would act

Myant, of the commission, said the Government's action was overdue but welcome. "There is an enormous waste of talent involved here and the possible generation of a number of deep social problems. So we need to get this ball rolling," he said. "Tens of thousands of pupils come out of school not having achieved

in the way they could do if things were done differently. No one is suggesting this is because one group of pupils are inherently stupid. What is being achieved by the best can be achieved by everybody. We have now got to find out how to bring this about."

The National Union of Teachers said: "The Government is adopting policies which it once derided as loony left. It abolished the local authority which most put them into practice — the Inner London Education Authority — without ensuring that the good practices from ILEA were carried on."

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said: "Schools can and do make a difference. But it would be blinkered to pretend that family background and social class and ethnic origin are not also important."

This view was echoed by Carlton Duncan, the head teacher of George Dixon School in Birmingham, who is black. He said the ten-point plan took up recommendations made 11 years ago by the Swann report, the last major review of the school performance of children from ethnic minorities.

Mr Duncan, a member of the Swann committee, said: "An important factor is the absence of the extended family support which Afro-Caribbeans do not seem to enjoy. If schools and others were compensating for that absence we might be seeing a different story." One way of providing this support, more prevalent in the Asian community, was through a scheme of "mentors", whereby successful members of the black community acted as role models for disadvantaged pupils, he said. Harry Greenaway, a Conservative member of the Commons Education and Employment Select Committee and a former deputy head teacher, opposed the policy of focusing on black pupils. "I am not in favour of singling people out racially in education. I think children have got to be grouped on educational grounds by streaming or setting," he said.

Education, page 35

## White exodus leaves inner cities to ethnic minorities

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE white and ethnic minority populations moved apart throughout the 1980s as whites left the big cities for the suburbs, according to a government report published yesterday.

As the whites left and the birth rate among ethnic minorities rose the concentration of Asians and blacks living in the metropolitan districts grew. However, although this concentration is expected to increase in areas such as London, the west Midlands and west Yorkshire, the report says that Britain does not have American-style ghettos. Unlike the United States, there are no towns or cities in which non-whites form a majority.

The report, based on the 1991 census, found evidence that some Caribbeans and

Indians were also moving to the outer suburbs and shire counties, particularly around London. Although the numbers were small, Hertfordshire, West Sussex, Dorset, Berkshire, Surrey, Cheshire and North Yorkshire registered an increase in their ethnic-minority population.

The 1991 census, which asked people about their ethnic identity for the first time, found that Britain's population rose by 1.4 million in the ten years to 1991 and that two-thirds of the increase was among minority ethnic groups.

There was a 2 per cent drop in the number of whites living in metropolitan areas, compared with a 1.1 per cent increase for Afro-Caribbeans; 3.6 per cent for Africans; 1.8 per cent for Indians; 1.1 per cent for Pakistanis; 3 per cent for Bangladeshis and 3.6 per

cent for Chinese.

The London borough of Brent had the highest minority population at 44.8 per cent, Newham 42.3 per cent and Tower Hamlets 35.6 per cent. But the report said that in five wards the non-white community comprised more than 74 per cent of the overall population.

The report, *Ethnicity in the 1991 Census*, said that, despite fears that Britain would follow the American model of inner-city segregation, the figures offered a more optimistic conclusion. But Peter Ratcliffe, senior lecturer in sociology at Warwick University and one of the authors of the report, warned that the concentration could increase over the next decade. "The key question is whether people in these areas will have the wherewithal, economically and educationally, to get out."



Sweetener: Bill Waddington, who plays Percy Sugden, meets his chocolate self

## Sticky moments as the Street turns to chocolate

By CAROL MIDDLEY

EXECUTIVE smiles congealed as Bill Roache — Ken Barlow to the millions who watch Britain's longest-running soap — made the opening speech yesterday at the launch of Cadbury's sponsorship of *Coronation Street*. The deal, he said, would bring "a whole new meaning to the words Quality Street". Rowntree, maker of Quality Street, must have been delighted, but Cadbury could be justified in regarding the game as something of a sticky

start to its £10 million association with the Rover's regulars.

Roache wasn't finished. He admitted that the cast had been initially wary of the deal, fearing it could lead to "product placement", restricted in this country but common in some American soaps. "Our concerns were about the American style," he said. "We thought we might suddenly have to break the story and hold up a chocolate bar. We have had chats with the management and our fears have been laid to rest. As long as the quality is not affected I hope and believe the public will accept."

From tomorrow, and before each episode for a year, viewers will see an animated sequence in which the cobbles and chimneys of television's most famous street turn to chocolate. Cadbury says the 12-month deal is the biggest British sponsorship package of its kind. It is certainly the first time in *Coronation Street*'s 35-year history that the pro-

gramme has been sponsored but yesterday both Cadbury and Granada insisted this would not affect the content or quality of the show.

Granada's managing director David Fraser said: "We don't want anything to happen that will change or cheapen the programme." A Cadbury spokesman said the company would not wish to spoil the integrity of the programme. There were no plans, for instance, to produce *Coronation Street* chocolate bars, despite the appearance at the press conference of a number of chocolate busts of leading characters.

Cadbury logos will appear at the start, during the commercial breaks and at the end of each show. From September 23, they will incorporate a promotion where viewers can win up to £25,000. Eight million prizes are on offer for viewers who can spot purple objects in a game at the end of each episode.

EastEnders is better, page 16

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Governor of suicide jail quits early

The governor of a prison where five women have committed suicide in 15 months is to retire early. The Scottish Prison Service denied that Robert Glen, 50, was leaving Cornton Vale prison, near Stirling, under a cloud, although the latest death there was on Tuesday when a 26-year-old inmate was found hanged in her cell. Officials said that he was leaving so that his successor could settle in as soon as possible.

### Bail for accused

Wayne Steven Paley, 23, accused of the manslaughter of Andrew Poynton, a student who was allegedly punched after going to the aid of a young woman, was freed on bail by Manchester magistrates until October 31.

### Aerosol death

A 14-year-old Darlington boy died after apparently inhaling the contents of his sister's aerosol deodorant. Carl Lee Cooper was heard crying for help in the early hours of yesterday but was dead on arrival at hospital.

### Parents sue store

The parents of a two-year-old boy who lost the tip of his finger in a door at a Sainsbury's store in Lincoln are to sue. A company spokesman said: "Our legal department has advised us that we are not liable for damages."

### Long crawl

A rare Death's Head hawk moth caterpillar, a native of Africa, was found in a field near Yeovil, Somerset. The 4in yellow caterpillar will live as a moth for about six weeks, feeding on potato leaves and honey.

### Staying safe

Staffordshire University at Stoke-on-Trent has appointed a safety officer to check gas fittings and wiring in student accommodation. Landlords who have been checked will be given safety certificates and put on an approved list.

### Sarah charge

A 33-year-old man is to appear in court at Melton, Leicestershire, today charged with the murder of Sarah Bottomley, 14, whose naked body was found in a cornfield near Edmondthorpe two weeks after she was last seen alive.

### Roo in a stew

Wild kangaroo steaks from the Australian Outback have gone on sale in 300 Tesco supermarkets. The meat, marketed as a healthy alternative to beef, has ten times less fat than a rump steak and is low in cholesterol.

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Chief Gcaleka

### Headhunter arrested for fraud

FROM INGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

CHIEF Nicholas Gcaleka, the South African traditional healer who conducted a ridiculed hunt in Scotland for the skull of an ancestor, has been arrested on charges of fraud.

The chief was unable to raise bail of 3,000 rands (£430) and is being held in custody in Umlata, Transkei. The charges relate to cheques totalling 123,000 rands (£17,570) allegedly signed by Chief Gcaleka, whose real name is apparently Nicholas Mbambatha, when buying liquor and groceries from a Transkei store in 1991 and from the Gilbey's liquor company in 1992. According to police, Chief Gcaleka faces a third charge.

The chief's arrest comes days after scientists announced that DNA tests showed that the skull he took back from Scotland, claiming it to be a head of King Hintsa, killed by British soldiers in 1835, was in fact the skull of a white woman. The Xhosa royal house, embarrassed by his antics, has threatened to fine the chief several head of cattle by way of punishment.

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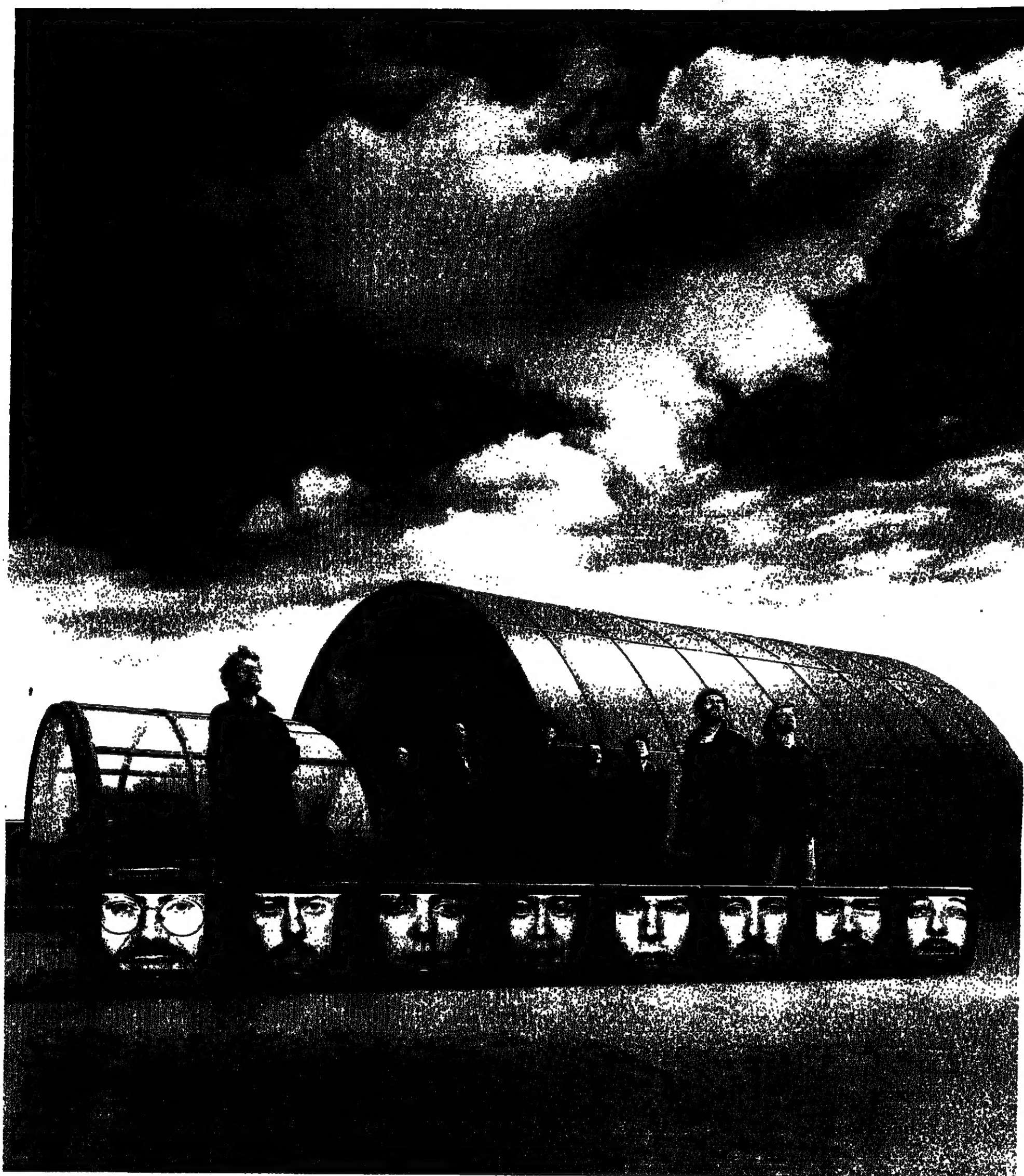


## APOLOGY.

Audi and their winning driver\*, Frank Biela, wish to apologise to all the other drivers for having to make them go through the motions in the last few races of the RAC Auto Trader British Touring Car Championships. Frank shall endeavour to make sure this doesn't happen again next year.



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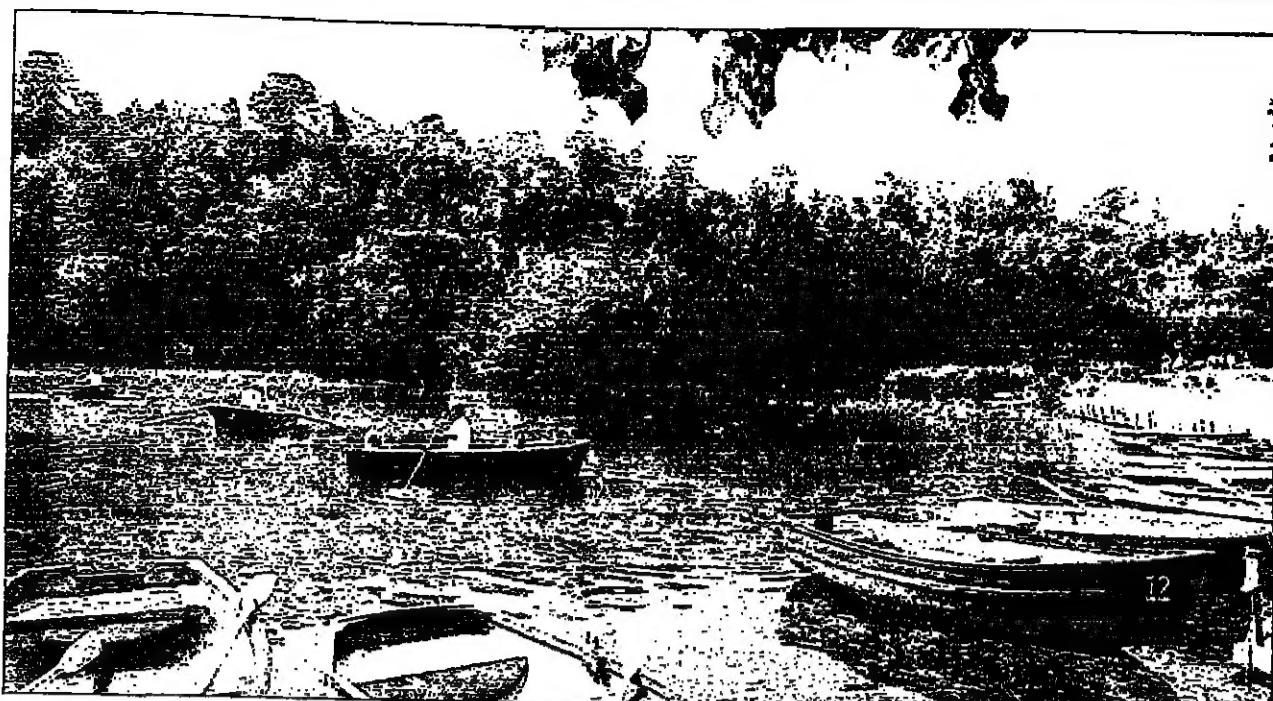
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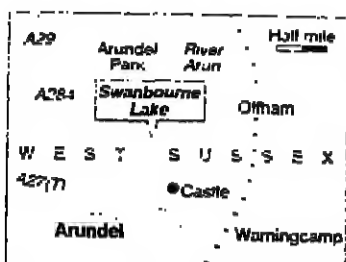
سورة الاحقاف





Bottom line: Swanbourne Lake has supplied Arundel with water for centuries, but has now turned to mud, leaving André Buller's rowing-boat business high and dry. Water companies deny they are to blame

## Water firms accused as Arundel's ancient lake runs dry



By NICK NUTTALL

TWO water companies are to have their licences reviewed after an ancient lake in the Duke of Norfolk's Arundel estate ran dry. The companies have been accused of taking too much water from the lake, which is listed as a site of special scientific interest. They deny exceeding their quotas but

the licences are to be examined to see whether the approved level of abstraction is too high. Swanbourne Lake, in West Sussex, has supplied Arundel with water for centuries. Over recent weeks it has turned to foul-smelling mud. Fish have died and most of the birdlife has left. André Buller, whose family has let rowing boats on the former

mill pond since the 1850s, said that the Southern and Portsmouth water companies had been bleeding the underground springs dry. His claim follows a report by government wildlife advisers revealing that scores of wetland beauty spots suffer from over-abstraction. Mr Buller, 79, said yesterday: "Even last summer, when there

were droughts everywhere, we still had enough water so people could row the boats on the lake." He blames the companies for the damage and an estimated loss of £5,000 after being forced to close during the school holidays. Southern Water denied that it had caused damage to the lake, blaming last summer's drought and low rainfall this year. "It's

nothing to do with us," a spokesman said. "It is just that the water table which supplies the natural springs is at a record low level." Simon Taylor, Sussex water resources manager at the Environment Agency, said the agency would hold talks with the companies and review their licences. He added that last year's drought and the dry winter had left the

chalk dry and that flows from springs had been intercepted by the water companies. "The pumping may be tipping the environmental balance." Southern Water said: "We have a licence to draw water from boreholes around the lake, but the demand is not as great as we thought and we only take half of what we are entitled to."

### Husband kills wife and stabs his baby

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MAN bludgeoned his estranged wife to death and stabbed their baby son in the stomach yesterday in an attack at her boyfriend's flat.

Toby Sumner, 26, then drove ten miles to the couple's matrimonial home in Aylsham, Norfolk, where he hanged himself. The 18-month-old baby, Jordan, is recovering in hospital after being found by Kerry Sumner's boyfriend, Trevor Toon.

Murder squad detectives said that they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the killing.

Mr Sumner, who was unemployed, attacked his wife and son at the flat in the seaside resort of Sheringham. Mrs Sumner, 23, had left him for Mr Toon, 25, in April. Mr Toon found her body when he came home from work in the early hours. The baby was taken to Norfolk and Norwich Hospital for emergency surgery. He was said last night to be in a stable condition.

Ella Howes, the postmistress at Aylsham, said that Mr Sumner had been a quiet man. "He was very upset when she left him. All I can think is that it all got too much for him and he just lost it."

### The office photocopier could pose health risk

By JEREMY LAURANCE

DOCTORS believe there may be a risk of lung disease from toner dust widely used in office photocopiers.

A 39-year-old man who developed a lung disease after working for 18 months in a news agency probably became ill as a result of contact with the dust, researchers report in *The Lancet*. The man, a non-smoker, developed a dry cough and breathlessness. Tests on samples taken from his lungs revealed particles containing amounts of copper and silicon identical to those found in toner dust.

The man, from Vienna, was treated with steroids but was no better after nine months. He was diagnosed with granulomatous pneumonitis, a lung disease caused by breathable metal particles.

The case is the second in which lung disease has been linked to photocopiers. Two years ago *The Lancet* reported on a 44-year-old Spanish woman who developed sidero-silicosis, in which the lungs get clogged with dust, working in a photocopying shop.

A spokesman for Canon Copiers UK said toner dust was safe when contained inside the photocopier.

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## America yawns as Oasis fail to behave badly

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA responded with a large yawn yesterday to an attempt by Oasis to misbehave on stage at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York.

In an apparent grab for controversy — and a higher profile in the United States, where they have yet to repeat their British success — Oasis and their lead singer, Liam Gallagher, went for the bad-boy image with their performance on Wednesday night. The awards are the pop world's equivalent of the Oscars and the ceremony was being broadcast live around the world. Gallagher spat on stage, threw an empty beer can into the audience, clutched the crotch of his trousers and shouted a minor insult in the direction of the Radio City Hall auditorium. There was little reaction. A few people clapped, a few more booed, but otherwise the would-be shocker failed to score much attention.

Oasis were almost universally ignored in reports of the ceremony in yesterday morning's American newspapers. A single line in the New York Daily News noted that

Gallagher's act was a "big down" while the New York Post, reporting the fact that Oasis had actually bothered to turn up, called him "mercenary". There had been some slight doubt before the show that they would turn up, but it was never really likely that the band would pass up such a rich promotional opportunity.

News reports concentrated instead on the bad language used on stage by Dennis Rodman, a Chicago Bulls basketball player who wore green nail varnish, matching hip-tugging trousers and a shirt that displayed his pierced belly button.

The Oasis performance bore no comparison to the misbehaviour of Sixties and Seventies British rock bands such as The Who and The Sex Pistols, for whom no gig was complete without an indecent amount of guitar smashing and audience abuse. Gallagher was more like Aled Jones after a half pint too many of shandy. If they want to benefit from controversy in the competitive American market they will have to behave a great deal worse.



Liam Gallagher: his monkeying around failed to secure much coverage

## Both sides condemn Unionist MP for role in militant rally

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

NATIONALISTS and Unionists rounded on a Democratic Unionist MP yesterday after he shared a platform with Billy Wright, the militant loyalist who has been threatened with death by Protestant paramilitaries.

The non-sectarian Alliance Party joined the SDLP and Sinn Féin in condemning the Rev William McCrea, MP for Mid-Ulster, after he joined thousands of hardline loyalists at the rally in Portadown, Co Armagh, on Wednesday night. Their comments were echoed privately by Unionists who were dismayed by Mr McCrea's actions.

Mr Wright, who was given 72 hours to leave Northern Ireland last week by the Combined Loyalist Military Command, was cheered by scores of members of the terrorist Ulster Volunteer Force. During his speech Mr Wright paid tribute to "Ulster's army", which was seen as a reference to the terrorists.

Lord Alderdice, leader of the Alliance Party, described Mr McCrea's action as a disgrace.

Protestants stopped about 1,000 Catholic football supporters from watching their team yesterday in Belfast. Police moved in after Cliftonville supporters were stopped on their way to The Oval in the east of the city by Protestant residents. The Ulster Cup semi-final went ahead in a half-empty stadium.

He said: "He is aligning himself with people who ... have clearly been fully involved in very worrying activities. He knows perfectly well that is the situation."

Brid Rogers, a leading member of the SDLP in Mid-Ulster, said Mr McCrea's presence was an attempt to exploit community tensions. Francis Molloy, Sinn Féin's Mid-Ulster representative, said: "Willie McCrea and his party refuse to talk to Sinn Féin because they claim we 'support violence'. And yet Mr McCrea shares a platform and defends the right of some

one who, at the very least, has publicly asserted the right of loyalists to kill Catholics."

Mr McCrea insisted that he was simply defending the principle of free speech and called on anyone with allegations against Mr Wright to lay them before a court of law.

The deteriorating security situation in Northern Ireland was discussed yesterday by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, at an informal meeting in Dublin. They pledged after their meeting to give the multi-party talks at Stormont a new momentum when they resumed on Monday.

In an article in *The Times* today, Sir Patrick acknowledges the harmful effects of this summer's disturbances. But he insists that the Government will press ahead with its search for a political settlement because the widespread view in Northern Ireland was "give talking a chance".

Patrick Mayhew, page 18

## Teacher killed in crash weeks after wife

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A BRITISH teacher working in Africa has died in a road accident, only weeks after his wife was killed in a car crash.

Last night, the dead man's mother, Mary Oates, preparing for his funeral today in Blyth, Northumberland, said: "To think this has happened twice defies belief."

James Oates, 29, died when his motorbike collided head-on with a tractor. His wife, Betty, 31, was killed in her car in June when she swerved to avoid an animal. Both accidents happened near border crossings between Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Mr Oates planned to return home after his wife died but stayed on to help his pupils before their exams. He then took a short break touring on a motorbike. His mother said: "He was on his way back. The sun was low in the sky as he came over a hill. He must have been blinded by the sun."

The couple met two years ago while Mr Oates an MSc graduate of Sunderland polytechnic, was working on a Voluntary Services Overseas project in Botswana. They married a few months later.

Mrs Oates said: "James had a marvellous attitude to life. He believed it didn't matter how long you lived, but what you did with your time."



Amy Kelland: abducted

## Kidnapped daughter flies home

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A FATHER whose nine-year-old daughter was kidnapped by her mother and taken to South Africa brought her home to Britain yesterday. Mike Kelland faces a bill of £15,000 after flying to Johannesburg and fighting a legal battle to win her back.

Amy Kelland was abducted last month by her mother, Susan Portsmouth, who was on a rare visit to England. Mr Kelland lodged a court action in Johannesburg and flew out to reason with his former wife, whom he divorced six years ago.

The court ruled that Amy should be returned to her father. Back at home in Tiverton, Devon, after flying overnight from Johannesburg, Mr Kelland said: "It has cost an arm and a leg but it was worth it to get my daughter back."

## Oysters on offer from near and far

### WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE new season's native oysters are on offer from about 85p each, but the more common Pacific rock or gigas oysters can be had for as little as 35p each. Victoria plums, cob nuts and English Confectionery pears are on the fruit stands and the new season's parsnips and main-crop potatoes have taken their place in the vegetable bins.

A minced-beef quality mark is now appearing on minced beef that is certified offal-free, 100 per cent beef and made only from regular cuts produced from cattle under 30 months old. Announced promotions include:

Asda: British rump steak £7.99 a kg, British lamb chops £7.34 a kg.

Budgens: rindless unsmoked back bacon rashers £1.59 for eight (250g), Cumberland pork sausages 99p for 454g, peppered ham 79p a ½ lb, Basmati rice £1.17 a kg.

Co-op: prime young beef sirloin steak £4.89, Cherry Valley frozen duck in orange sauce £2.99 for 450g, chicken nuggets £1.79 for 253g.

Dewhurst: braising steak £1.89 a lb, diced beef £4.99 for 3lb.

Harrods: Scottish black and white pudding 50p for 100g, smoked wild Scottish haunch of venison £3.25 for 100g, Scottish haggis £2.50 each, extra seasoned Parma ham £3.98 for 100g, Italian pepperoni £1.98 for 100g.

Iceland: gammon grill steaks

£1.69 for six, orange and ginger chicken breasts £2.29 for 396g, prawns £3.99 for 400g, smoked haddock fillets £2.99 for 680g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken and mushroom pasties 99p for two (330g), crispy aromatic duck £5.99 for 550g, luxury musli £2.29 kg, chocolate roll £1.39, tree-ripe peaches or nectarines £1.49 for four.

Morrisons: chicken Kiev £2.89 for 567g, chicken chasseur £1.99 for 500g, British topside/silverside £1.99 a lb, minced beef 99p for 454g, frozen peeled prawns £1.89 for 200g, oysters 35p each.

Safeway: chicken Kiev £3.19 for four (568g), supermince beef steak £2.59 kg, chargrill quarter pounders £1.29 for 600g, corn on the cob 25p each, courgettes 39p a lb, kiwi fruit 12p each.

Sainsbury's: braising steak £2.29 a kg, British whole lamb leg £4.29 a kg, medium eggs £2.45 for 24, white potatoes £1.39 for 2.5 kg, closed cup mushrooms £1.69 for 500g, oranges £1.29 for eight.

Somerfield: fresh chicken nuggets £1.59 for 312g, fresh beef sirloin steak £3.79 a lb, fresh haddock fillet £1.43 lb, cherry tomatoes 69p for 227g, cucumbers 29p each, white seedless grapes 64p a lb.

Waitrose: farmhouse chicken £2.65 for 1.8kg, parsnips 69p a lb, Discovery apples 49p a lb, pure grapefruit juice 97p a ltr.

ROBIN YOUNG

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Now, unfortunately, the bad news. Vauxhall's 50:50 finance offer on the Vectra Premier is only available until 30th September. So, anyone who wants to pay for half of the car now and half in two years time, with no monthly repayments or interest in between, had better get motoring.

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# Sick Yeltsin deepens fear of struggle for power in Kremlin

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WHETHER in peace or war, under dictatorship or during periods of relative liberalism, Russians have always depended on a strong and visible leader. Throughout their history, Russians have been threatened with civil unrest, disorder, rebellion and bloody power struggles whenever a leader has died, been deposed or shown himself too ill or too weak to rule.

The news that President Yeltsin is to have a heart operation is therefore an ominous sign for most Russians and will awaken old fears of a power vacuum at the top. There is a real worry now that the struggle for succession, which has been going on beneath the surface for at least a year, will break into the open and will threaten not only the stability and political well-being of the state but will result in damaging rifts and political feuding that could threaten all the reforms since the collapse of communism.

Naturally, Mr Yeltsin's ill-health comes as no surprise. Despite the strenuous efforts of his image-makers to play down his heart trouble, it has been increasingly clear to everyone, especially since his re-election, that Mr Yeltsin is a

sick man. This was especially evident from his wooden and painful performance at his presidential inauguration a month ago, when he spoke for only 45 seconds.

To a nation that for years grew accustomed to the obvious incapacity of Leonid Brezhnev and his two successors while the press and television maintained that they were as vigorous as ever, the pretence was familiar. It produced the same cynical reaction and the same crop of rumours that Mr Yeltsin was actually dead.

In an age of democracy and openness, however, the taboos could more easily be broken without fear of punishment, and the true state of President Yeltsin's health could no longer be hidden. Regular medical bulletins are now likely, although they will be less intrusively detailed than those on the health of American Presidents.

Such openness may still come as a shock. Russia has a long tradition of the white lie, the unchallenged fiction. An attempt to deceive is not a serious matter, as long as each side knows the real state of affairs. The fiction that the leader is still a vigorous,



Surrounded by bodyguards, Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian national security adviser, arrives in Novye Atagi village for further talks with Aslan Maskhadov, the rebel Chechen chief of staff, over their recent peace deal

central figure in the body politic masks the need to confront the difficult question of succession.

Even in a democratic system, Russian leaders — and especially the shadowy aides serving it — see the need to present an agreed, united, monolithic face. This is especially true at a time when all know that naked ambition is prowling the Kremlin. This is why there has been such embarrassment over the successful conclusion of a peace deal in Chechnya by General Aleksandr Lebed, President Yeltsin's security chief. This is also why each of the would-be successors insists he has the

best of the authority and the blessing of Mr Yeltsin.

The concern that the Russian leader must be fully fit and vigorous also has deeper roots, going back to the tsarist

and never allowed comment on his wretched arm.

Physical blemishes of any kind were unacceptable to Communist leaders. During his early days as a Politburo member, Mikhail Gorbachev's birthmark was airbrushed out of official photographs. It was only when he himself initiated a policy of glasnost that he insisted on an end to such pretence.

**“The struggle for succession could threaten stability and all the reforms since the collapse of communism”**

tradition of the almost sacred person of the Emperor. He must radiate to his subjects the spiritual authority of his position; he cannot therefore be less than fully in command

people to conceal his true incapacity after his strokes. Similarly, Stalin retreated behind a wall of secrecy but felt the need to be seen exercising authority at crucial moments

and never allowed comment on his wretched arm.

Physical blemishes of any kind were unacceptable to Communist leaders. During his early days as a Politburo member, Mikhail Gorbachev's birthmark was airbrushed out of official photographs. It was only when he himself initiated a policy of glasnost that he insisted on an end to such pretence.

That openness has since made a mockery of the Kremlin's attempts to portray Boris Yeltsin as the fit and vigorous man he once was.

Leading article, page 19

## Worried Kohl in call for speedy Moscow summit

By ROGER BOYES

WESTERN fears about President Yeltsin's health prompted a Moscow meeting to be hastily arranged for tomorrow between Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and the Russian leader.

Last night, the trip seemed likely to go ahead, despite German nervousness about the nagging uncertainty about Mr Yeltsin's health and the erratic course of the Russian leadership may derail its attempts to put together a new Ostpolitik.

The planned Kohl-Yeltsin summit capped a week of very intense contacts with the former Soviet Union. Herr Kohl spent the first three days of the week in Ukraine. Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, flew to Bonn; and Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, urged Nato to select its first entry candidates from Central Europe by next March.

The conflict with Iraq put a new item on Herr Kohl's Moscow summit agenda, but the fundamental purpose of the meeting was to discover more about the Russian President's physical condition and his grip on the leadership.

Both the Americans and Germans, although relieved that Mr Yeltsin won the presidential election, are nervous about the Russian leader, about the long-term impact of the war in Chechnya and about a possible financial or economic crisis in the winter.

Of these fears, the greatest is about the health of the President. German intelligence reports have been consistently more downbeat about Mr Yeltsin's illnesses

than those of other agencies. According to the Germans, Mr Yeltsin suffered heart problems in 1987, 1990 and in July and October 1995.

When President Chirac of France returned from his holiday he immediately expressed confidence in Mr Yeltsin. Observers in Bonn suggest that this was partly prompted by a pooling of French and German intelligence analysis about Mr Yeltsin's condition.

In some respects, Germany is occupying its traditional role during a United States presidential election campaign: engaging in unusually high-profile foreign policy to reassure Russia and the rest of Eastern Europe that the West is not completely absorbed with its own problems. There is no doubt that the Chancellor is co-ordinating closely with President Clinton. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, will be talking to Herr Kohl today, the eve of his Moscow trip.

Much of the past year of German Ostpolitik has been geared to the need to bring Mr Yeltsin back to power. This involved creating a number of incentives to offer a Western Russian leader, including making Russia a full participant in meetings of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, and more moderate discussions on Nato expansion.

Now that the elections are over, however, Herr Kohl has to change gear. The first question to be settled concerns Mr Yeltsin's real state of health, hence the quickly arranged summit tomorrow.

German diplomats have already advised Herr Kohl that there will be no opportunity for sauna negotiations during the summit — Mr Yeltsin's condition forbids it. Trencherman meals are also out and time will be rationed.

Herr Kohl has had experience with sickly leaders in Moscow and knows how to manoeuvre around the problem. In this case, that means maintaining good links with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, and sounding out General Aleksandr Lebed, the security adviser, who is something of a closed book to Bonn.



Primakov: made a trip to Germany this week

## Risk of coronary failure remains after bypass surgery

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has always been a brave man, whether sitting on a tank, or defying his political opponents in the corridors of power. He is now about to undergo open heart surgery in a centre well away from the sophisticated world of Western medicine.

Even for a man of his age and past medical history, the actual bypass surgery is relatively safe. Professor Brian Pentecost, the medical direc-

tor of the British Heart Foundation, suggests that the President's chances of surviving a coronary bypass are between 97 and 98 per cent. To put surgical risk in proportion, Mr Yeltsin has odds four times better than those of a pre-war patient having surgery for appendicitis.

Fortunately, there is no evidence that Mr Yeltsin's previous heart attacks have left his kidneys damaged; if there had been such evidence,



Professor Pentecost would have altered the odds.

The remaining question is the amount of damage that heart surgery is likely to inflict on Mr Yeltsin's intellect. The professor is again

optimistic. Although possibly 6 to 10 per cent of patients may be a bit forgetful after bypass surgery, the effect is usually short term.

Mr Yeltsin should be able to return to work within two

or three months, but may find that he is very easily fatigued, physically and mentally.

In about half of patients who have had a bypass, the grafted veins occlude again within ten years. Those who have had a graft not from a vein but from the internal mammary artery have a slightly better track-record. In any event, Mr Yeltsin will find that his cardiologists will be determined to alter his lifestyle, so that he takes

regular exercise, has a low-fat, low-salt diet, and a daily alcohol intake restricted to two or three glasses of red wine.

Damage done by previous coronary thromboses will, of course, remain and will have left Mr Yeltsin's heart muscle permanently weakened, making him liable to heart failure.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

## Happy ending for Andersen's lost letter

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN COPENHAGEN

DANISH literary experts have discovered a priceless letter written by Hans Christian Andersen in 1859.

Andersen, best known for his fairytales *The Little Mermaid* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*, wrote thousands of letters but most of them were short notes:

making this four-page missive exceptional, says Johan de Mylius, a leading authority on the Danish author.

He said the letter was "very witty and written in a joking style" and was written to congratulate a young politician and newspaper editor who had just been married.

A lawyer, who has not been named, had found the letter earlier this summer

among family documents. He donated the find to the Andersen Centre at the University of Odense, 90 miles west of Copenhagen.

Mr de Mylius, who is based at the centre, said the letter would not be offered for sale. Many of Andersen's letters had fetched up to 10,000 kroner (£1,000), even though they "often were of little interest", Mr de Mylius said.

## US state goes on alert as 120mph hurricane nears

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

BEACHSIDE curfews were imposed in South Carolina yesterday and half a million people were evacuated from homes as the authorities prepared for the landfall of "ferocious Fran", the latest storm of the hurricane season.

The hurricane was forecast to hit the coast of the United States early this morning and was spoken of as a rival to 1989's killer Hurricane Hugo, which left 36 dead, caused about \$10 billion (£4.4 billion) worth of damage in the state and made 50,000 people homeless.

Fran's landfall was calculated for the border between North and South Carolina. By lunchtime yesterday huge waves were pounding the sands of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, and curious or footloose locals who ventured down to the waterfront were asked by police to leave.

The officers had the power to arrest those who ignored the warnings. The town's pier, half-destroyed by Hurricane Bertha two months ago, was unlikely to survive.

Hurricane warnings were posted the length of the coast from Chincoteague, Virginia, to Brunswick, Georgia. Coastguards predicted storm surges of 10ft and 10in of rain, with all the attendant flooding. Residents of the area's barrier islands submitted to mandatory evacuation orders issued by David Beasley, the Governor of South Carolina.

"Fran is a large and brutal storm," the Governor said. "She is not to be trifled with in any shape, way, fashion or

form. No area along our coastline is safe." Bob Grissom, the Mayor of Myrtle Beach, said through storm-whipped rain: "We hope people will realise how dangerous this storm is going to be and will take the opportunity to leave."

During the course of the day, Fran picked up speed as it roared over the warm Gulf Stream waters of the Atlantic, and was said to be blowing at just below 120mph. "At this time, Hurricane Fran is about as large as Hurricane Hugo and has the potential to become just as strong," the National Hurricane Centre said. A member of the Georgetown County sheriff's department, Major Mike Schwartz, said of the evacuation effort: "If someone refuses to leave, we ask for next of kin."

Storekeepers desperately tried to board up shop windows while fleeing motorists queued at petrol stations and stocked up on food. Traffic on Interstate 26, a major road heading inland, was jammed.

Joe Lipsitz, a 76-year-old South Carolinian who stayed put at his home in the town of Beaufort during Hurricane Hugo, said: "I've ridden them all out, but I'm debating whether to go this time."

Schools were closed and 5,000 troops at the Marine Corps base on Parris Island were sent packing. The only people heading east were members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency: they arrived in the endangered areas with vital supplies.

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# THE TIMES

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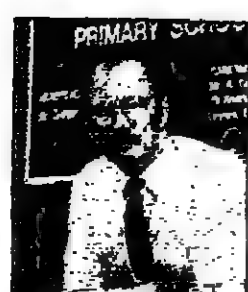
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**Clement Freud: weather-beaten in Brighton**  
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1996

## High street trade at best levels since 1980s, says CBI

By Philip Bassett and Janet Burn

BRITAIN'S high streets are now seeing their best business since the late 1980s, but the Confederation of British Industry said that Britain was not enjoying the same boom conditions as then and that calls for higher interest rates are unjustified.

The latest buoyant reading of the consumer side of the economy came the day after the latest discussions on monetary policy between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the

Bank of England, which appear to have left interest rates unchanged. There was no signal for a change of rates from the Bank yesterday.

The CBI distributive trades survey showed a net balance of 53 per cent of retail companies who reported an increase in sales compared with the previous year. This is the healthiest reading since November 1988, and it provided early vindication for avoiding any temptation to cut base rates.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey panel, said that the survey indicated

The CBI last night warned the Labour Party against offering a "miracle cure" for the British economy and told the Conservatives not to put at risk, for electoral reasons, the economic gains of the past three years. Page 24

a "feeling better factor", and was a "welcome indication that consumer confidence is improving".

The survey of 15,000 outlets in retailing, wholesaling and the motor trade showed that retailers viewed their current levels of business as well above average and that they expected a further rise in sales this month. Most sectors reported a

rise in sales, but those businesses most closely linked with the housing market showed the best increases in sales volumes. All carpet retailers, for example, showed a rise.

The survey shows that retailers took advantage of an increase in consumer spending to push up their prices. The balance of firms increasing prices, compared with the same

month a year ago, was at its highest level since May 1993.

This would seem to be a further argument against any further lowering of interest rates. But the CBI made it clear that there was nothing in the figures which would indicate the need for an increase in rates. Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate economic analysis director, said: "We do not think that the Government's underlying inflation target is in any way endangered."

Mr Eperon said: "We are not seeing the 1980s boom conditions here at all. Consumers are still

being very careful and still shopping around."

CBI analysts acknowledged that, if current trends continued, prospects for good sales at Christmas were encouraging. However, they also said that uncertainty over the election might begin to have an impact on consumer confidence and therefore retail sales.

There was also news that new car sales in the P-registration month of August were 2.2 per cent up on those in August, 1995. Sales totalled 479,407, a little short of the 480,000 the industry had hoped for.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FT-SE 100	3887.2	(+14.5)
FT-SE 100	4.03%	
FT-SE 100	102.25	(+5.44)
FT-SE 100	2097.82	(+177.59)
New York	5653.57	(-3.33)
Dow Jones	5653.57	(-3.33)
S&P Composite	565.02	(-0.59)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	7.12%	(7.12%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
Libor long call	107%	(107%)

STERLING		
New York	1.5870*	(1.5872)
London	1.5870	(1.5885)
DM	2.2280	(2.2204)
SP	1.5875	(1.5851)
Yen	171.88	(170.17)
£ Index	96.8	(95.6)

DOLLAR		
London	1.4848*	(1.4800)
DM	8.0847	(8.0755)
SP	1.5875	(1.5851)
Yen	108.09*	(108.79)
£ Index	96.8	(95.6)

TOKYO		
London	1.4848*	(1.4800)
DM	8.0847	(8.0755)
SP	1.5875	(1.5851)
Yen	108.09*	(108.79)
£ Index	96.8	(95.6)

BREIT 15-day (Nov)		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	821.35	(821.40)

LONDON CLOSE		
London close	6386.35	(6386.75)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Weather damage claims hit RSA

By Marianne Curphy

AN INCREASE in worldwide weather claims denied pre-tax profits for Royal and Sun Alliance (RSA) as it reported its first interim results as a merged company.

The UK's biggest insurance company, formed through the union of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance in July, said the merger had cost £16 million so far. This is likely to rise to £175 million, roughly equivalent to the cost savings that are expected to result.

Pro forma results for the six months to June 30 showed operating profit before tax down from £514 million to £450 million. Realised investment gains were up from £34 million to £109 million. The shares fell 1p to 410p.

Steven Bird, insurance analyst with Merrill Lynch, said RSA needed to make an acquisition to strengthen its position in the market. "At present, it has a weak life company and depends too much on areas which are open to price competition," he said. "It would be far better for it to look for specialised sectors."

RSA has already announced the closure of 94 branches and 1,300 jobs. It aims to reduce its worldwide workforce by 5,000 from the current level of 45,000 by 1998. Staff numbers at both head offices are to be cut.

An interim dividend of 6.5p per share is being paid and RSA said it was still on target to pay a final dividend of 10p per share.

Pennington, page 25

## SFO on alert over Morgan Grenfell

By Robert Miller

THE Serious Fraud Office may launch an investigation into the way in which £1.4 billion worth of investors' money was managed by Morgan Grenfell, one of the City's leading fund managers.

As investors yesterday withdrew £114 million from the three European Morgan Grenfell funds at the centre of an inquiry by City watchdogs, the SFO said that it had continued to monitor developments closely, although it had not yet been passed a case file.

The fraud office only accepts cases involving more than £1 million and where "serious and complex" fraud is alleged to have taken place. A senior SFO lawyer has received a briefing from officials at the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the UK watchdog for fund managers.

The briefing centred on the alleged irregularities relating to the valuation of certain

unquoted European investments held in the three Morgan Grenfell funds. These were managed by Peter Young, 38, who was suspended on Monday after being interviewed by Imro officials.

The Morgan Grenfell investigation, spearheaded by Imro and the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), a fellow watchdog, also involves overseas agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in America and authorities in Luxembourg and, more recently, Switzerland.

The investigation that led to the suspension of Mr Young began in April when the FBI launched an inquiry into the affairs of Solv-Ex, a New Mexico company that extracts oil from sand.

In June the Securities and Exchange Commission, the US stock market watchdog, notified the SFA, its UK counterpart, that it was looking at

the role played by Fiba Nordic, an SFA member, which arranged a private placement of \$70 million worth of Solv-Ex shares. In the same month the SFA in London received further reports about certain transactions in Solv-Ex shares and widened its investigation. The following month two new names came to the attention of investigators, Ice Securities, also an SFA member, and Mr Young.

Morgan Grenfell has confirmed that independent valuations on the unquoted holdings in the European funds were most often carried out by Fiba Nordic and Ice Securities.

It was in July that the SFA notified Imro about the possible trading links between Mr Young, the Morgan Grenfell funds and a third company, Russ Oil & Technology, a firm registered in Luxembourg.

Mr Young is said to have a close personal involvement with the Luxembourg company and Morgan Grenfell and Royal Bank of Scotland have issued a High Court writ freezing the fund manager's assets and those of Russ Oil & Technology. The writ specifically forbids the dealing in warrants and shares in Xavier Mines, a Canadian drilling company. It is understood that the Xavier Mines warrants may have been pledged as security against some or all of the £400,000 purchase price of Mr Young's house in Amersham, Bucks, where he recently moved with his wife and two children.

Investigators are now also examining possible links between Mr Young and a Swiss law firm which is alleged to have conducted a considerable number of trades for Russ Oil & Technology.

In a separate and unrelated move yesterday Stewart Armer, the manager of Morgan Grenfell's Europa fund, was also suspended. Mr Armer is alleged to have breached personal account dealing rules by dealing through an outside broker rather than an in-house one as the rules stipulate. The alleged infringement came to light during the course of the Imro investigation of Mr Young's dealings.



John Church, the chairman of Church & Co, the footwear company, put his best foot forward yesterday, reporting a pre-tax profit of £125 million in the six months to June 30, up 23 per cent. The company will pay an interim dividend of 3.25p, up from 3p

## Lonrho delays hotels flotation

By Alasdair Murray

Lonrho is delaying the £700 million stock market flotation of its hotel division to consider making a trade sale instead.

The announcement was made just one day before the mining, trading and hotels company, which is in the process of splitting into three separate businesses, was due to publish the flotation prospectus for its Princess Metropole hotels division.

Speculation has grown recently that the float was running into trouble, although Lonrho has insisted that it has been well received by the City. Analysts estimate that a trade sale of the hotel group could fetch up to £1 billion, compared with a prospective flotation value of about £700 million.

Up to a dozen groups are believed to be considering bidding for all or part of the hotel division. But interest is likely to centre on the Princess chain, a ten-strong luxury resort group based in the Caribbean and America, which analysts believe is worth up to £400 million. American hotel chains such as ITT Sheraton, Hilton Hotels Group, Marriott and Renaissance were all last night named as potential bidders.

A successful sale of the Princess chain leaves open the possibility that Lonrho will still proceed with a flotation of the five UK-based Metropole hotels. The group focuses on the large conference sector; it may command a higher UK stock market rating than the Princess chain. A number of potential bidders in the UK hotel sector ruled themselves out of the bidding yesterday, including Sir Rocco Forte, who has been seeking suitable acquisitions since losing the Forte business to Granada in a takeover this year. Lonrho shares rose 1p to close at 177p. A decision is expected within a month.

## 'Best buy' card rating defended

By Sarah Jones

THE Consumers' Association has defended a report in the latest edition of *Which?*, its magazine, that highlighted its own credit card as a "best buy". The card was launched two weeks ago and is run by Beneficial Bank, which pays the association £5 for every card taken out.

The report recommends the Gold Visa version as a best buy for people who pay most of their credit card bills in full. The standard version of the card gets only one *Which?* red star, again as a card for those who pay their balance in full. Sheila

McKechie, director of the association, personally endorses the *Which?* card in an advertisement in the same issue.

Kate Scribbins, head of the association's money group, said: "We have strict guidelines, which mean our researchers treat the *Which?* card like any other credit card. We also have an external audit panel which ensures we remain squeaky clean, with no crossover between the commercial and research sides. She added: "The card did not come out well in all categories, which proves our research is impartial."

The report fails to point out that some

cards — including the *Which?* card — charge interest from the date of transaction or purchase rather than the posting date, which means you pay a few more days' interest. Beneficial has altered the terms of its other affinity cards to charge interest from the purchase date.

Steve Harris, the association's director of communications, said: "We negotiated the terms of our card carefully with Beneficial Bank. They were not imposed upon us. It is important to look at the whole package, not one detail."

Pennington, page 25

Pennington, page 25

# ORACLE

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□ Green light may be too costly for Wessex □ Royal and Sun Alliance waiting game □ Auditing standards hit by changes

## Problems surface at the deep end

□ IT IS now six months since Wessex Water said it was planning to bid for its neighbour, South West Water. The prospect of two of the paddling pools of the privatised utility sector coming together had a certain appeal. But then one of the swimming pools, Severn Trent, announced it was wading in. Ofwat decided to call time out on the whole process and pass it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC is due to pass its views to Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, by September 27. Wessex expects to be given the green light and see Severn Trent blocked.

Its belief is that the MMC is concerned about the possible concentration in the waste business. Although Severn Trent, with Biffa, and Wessex, with its joint venture with Waste Management International and UK Waste, are substantial players in the sector, South West's Haul-Waste is concentrated in its home territory and so there is not a massive overlap.

What is going to excite the attention of the regulators is the coming together of the actual water businesses. Ian Byatt at Ofwat is not a fan of Severn Trent. He thinks it is too big anyway and the prospect of it buying South West, so ending up supplying a fifth of the population of the UK

with water, may be too much to swallow. Wessex, on the other hand, has just 2.5 million customers and together with South West would still only be the third smallest water company.

Assuming Ian Lang gives the green light to at least the Wessex offer, there is still an intriguing question as to what might actually happen. As Wessex shareholders file into today's annual meeting, at the appropriately chosen venue of the Assembly Rooms, Bath, they might like to ask its chairman, Nicholas Hood, whether any of the events of the past six months might make Wessex rethink its decision to bid for South West.

In particular shareholders might wonder what is happening with Wessex's relationship with Waste Management International. It holds 20 per cent of Wessex's shares and 50 per cent of the UK Waste joint venture. But Phillip Rooney, the president of its US parent company, WMX Industries, has said he wants to sell off all its non-core assets and Goldman Sachs has been hired to advise WMX on how it can extricate itself from Wessex. If

this 20 per cent stake is up for sale, then it would be pretty hard for Wessex to underwrite a share issue to fund a South West deal, given that it would have to pay in excess of Wessex's current market value of £750 million. If WMX is selling its half of UK Waste, Wessex would want to buy it. Like buses, Wessex will find that you wait ages for a deal and two come at once.

Mr Hood has been pretty tight-lipped on the company's ongoing relationship with WMX. He will have to come clean before the MMC rules, or else Wessex could be left with a green light for a bid it cannot finance.

### Alliance waits for benefits to show

□ IT will be a good six months before shareholders in the newly formed Royal and Sun Alliance know whether the merger between the two insurance giants has been a success. Though the board has made much of the expected cost savings from the deal, its presentation yesterday was short on detail of how this



would be achieved. Despite having plenty of cash sloshing about in the reserves, it is loath to grace the market with a share buyback, and said it would be too busy in the short term to think about acquisitions.

The insurance sector is undergoing its biggest shake-up in recent memory as companies struggle to keep down costs while the industry reaches the bottom of its cycle. Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance are the first composites to take the merger route, and have the perfect opportunity to slim down their operations and emerge leaner and meaner than the competition. However, the company is talking excitedly about international expansion without

having put its UK house in order. And there is much to do there: the life company is relatively weak, the direct insurance business needs building up, while motor and household rates show little sign of strong rises in premium rates in the near term.

But at least it does not have the problems of Refuge Assurance, which this week attempted to quell opposition to its merger with United Friendly by offering a sweetener to shareholders.

The Refuge-United Friendly deal has been a lesson for the insurance industry in how not to handle a merger. The deal appeared to have been put together in haste, neither company has come up with a clear figure for anticipated cost savings and shareholders threatened to block the deal in a row over orphan assets. Refuge shareholders must be wondering whether they would be better off taking a 20 per cent premium from a predator and forgetting about the merger altogether. Royal and Sun Alliance shareholders should know by March whether millions of pounds of

lawyers and management consultancy fees have created an industry front-runner or a lame also-ran.

### Ruining the auditors

□ BY THE standards of some far cats, the £740,000 paid to Colin Sharman is a small tin of Whiskas. But until the beginning of this year, the senior partner of KPMG ran a risk of ruin because of the actions of his colleagues that simply do not exist for George Simpson. The incorporation of KPMG's audit side was designed to take away that risk. Most people thought it was a good thing. Stewart Colley, of the £6.5 billion British Steel Pension Fund, disagrees.

Mr Colley believes that auditors do their job better if they know that a cock-up would mean that someone could sue them for everything they, and their partners, own. This would mean that in a giant practice like KPMG, a mistake in the auditing of any of the 400 quoted companies KPMG polices could mean that a

tax partner in Welwyn Garden City would lose his home, his car and his golf club membership.

The auditors disagree. We are professional and do a professional job, they say. We work no better with a financial sword of Damocles over our heads. That is why some are incorporating and some, such as Ernst & Young or Price Waterhouse, looking to scuttle offshore to set up in Jersey, Bermuda or, god forbid, the Isle of Man.

Neither solution is desperately appealing, though the incorporation option does have the advantage of giving the auditors a UK presence. Mr Colley's protest may not gain much support from other investors, but it does highlight the question of whether shareholders, who are the real clients of the auditors, get the service they deserve.

### Which hunt

SO THE Consumers Association launches a credit card and two weeks later Which? says this is a "best buy". What next? It comes out with a washing machine, an alpaca, a timeshare? The credit card should be withdrawn and refunds given to subscribers to the Which? money guides. And the Consumers Association needs to act quickly to restore its credibility. Sheila McKechnie's resignation would be a start.

## GrandMet starts European sell-off

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the food and drinks group, has sold Erasco, its German-based food business, to the Campbell Soup Company for £140 million and plans to sell another ten of its smaller European food businesses.

The move has raised expectations that the group is planning a share buyback, and may seek shareholder consent at its annual meeting in March.

The other businesses to be

sold are expected to raise around £100 million and most of the sales should be concluded by December.

These businesses include Shippams, Peter's Savoury Products, Memory Lane Cakes and Fleur de Lys in the UK; Hoffman-Menu and Goldstein in Germany; Brosard in France and Italy; Suzy and Desobry in Belgium and Drieboek in The Netherlands. The combined sales of these businesses last year were £370

million, with operating profits of £10 million.

GrandMet will maintain a food presence in Europe with four market-leading international brands.

They will be grouped under Pillsbury Europe, the renamed GrandMet Foods Europe, whose headquarters will be moved from Paris to Uxbridge. The four brands are Pillsbury, the chilled dough makers, Green Giant, the leading tinned sweetcorn brand, Häagen-Dazs ice-cream and Old El Paso Mexican foods.

The food company sales, together with the disposal of the Pearle opticians business in America, which should also be concluded by December and raise more than £100 million, are expected to bring down GrandMet's debts from £2.9 billion to nearer £2.4 billion by the year-end.

On the Stock Exchange, GrandMet's shares ended 4½p better at 473½p.

Times, page 26



Richard Oster expects a two to three-year payback

## Cookson to spend £25m cutting costs

By CARL MORTIMER

COOKSON GROUP delivered a rude shock to the market yesterday with news of a £25 million restructuring aimed at reducing costs and streamlining the business. The announcement came as the group confirmed a downturn in its electronics materials division, which has suffered from destocking by customers in the personal computer and mobile telephone industries.

Cookson said that the cost reductions would be implemented over the next few months and the £25 million charge would appear in the full-year accounts for 1996. Richard Oster, chief executive said that he expected a two to three-year payback on the cost of the programme. Bob Malt, chairman, said: "Every now and then you look in the cupboard and see that there is nothing up to do."

Pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 rose 5 per cent, to £85.3 million, before exceptional items. The electronics materials division fell 4 per cent, to £34.5 million. The interim dividend is rising 11 per cent, to 3.9p, from unchanged earnings of 8.7p a share.

## Granada plans Spring Grove sale for £136m

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA yesterday agreed to sell Spring Grove Services, the textile services company, for £136.5 million as part of its continuing efforts to dispose of non-core businesses in the wake of its £3.8 billion Forte purchase.

Davis Service, a big operator in the linen rental and cleaning business, is paying cash for Spring Grove. It announced a one-for-three rights issue, raising £71.5 million, to help to finance the deal.

George Boyle, Davis's finance director, said Spring Grove was a natural fit with Davis's Sunlight division. Spring Grove has 2,500 employees, 40,000 customers, 14 processing plants in the UK, four in the Irish Republic and two in Germany. It reported operating profits of £10.5 million on turnover of £84 million in its last financial year.

Mr Boyle said that Davis could easily squeeze more profits out of Spring Grove. Its profit margins of 15 per cent are five percentage points

below those of Sunlight. He partly attributed Spring Grove's relatively low margins to a series of indifferent owners. Since 1989, Spring Grove has been owned by ADT, P&O and Granada.

He added that there would be redundancies at Spring Grove, but the number would not be large. Davis's issue of 34.4 million convertible stock units was underwritten by Kleinwort Benson at 215p apiece.

The takeover came as Davis announced a pre-tax profit of £12.3 million, or 8.14p a share, in the half year to the end of June, against a pre-tax profit of £11.2 million, or 7.45p a share, previously. Turnover from continuing operations rose marginally to £157.3 million. An interim dividend of 3.9p, up from 3.08p, will be paid on October 25.

Granada said that the Spring Grove sale would raise the total disposal proceeds to £350 million since the Forte acquisition in January.



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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BIRTHS

Guards at the Garamba National Park, Zaire, are delighted to announce the birth of a new baby rhino 'Mbolifue' - meaning 'Gift from Heaven'. Both mother and baby are doing fine.



## Godparents wanted

For our precious "Gift from Heaven"

Before Mbolifue's arrival, there were just 29 northern white rhinos alive in Garamba; the last surviving population in the wild. You can imagine the excitement when the tiny baby calf was spotted from the air, moving slowly through the grass behind her mother. In March this year, a pregnant female was shot and brutally butchered by poachers. The birth of Mbolifue goes some way towards compensating for

that tragedy but, as a tiny calf this, "Gift from Heaven" is extremely vulnerable.

That's why we'd like you to help protect Mbolifue by joining our adoption scheme for just £2 a month. In return, you'll receive a photograph of Mbolifue (when we get one!) and regular update bulletins, following your calf's progress. Please help us if you can.

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THE  
TIMES



CITY  
DIARY

### In the net for ING Barings

OUTRAGE has broken out at ING Barings after news was leaked this week that the merchant bank's netball team is being sent on an all-expenses-paid trip to New York. Cries of "injustice" could be heard after it was announced that the sporty gals are jetting off. Club Class of course, to the United States. Dawn Dennison, a presentation specialist in ING Barings's Corporate Finance Division, is on holiday and unable to comment, but word from the sideline is that the netball team are having a "good season".

### Cuba's finest

PARTIAL to an after-dinner cigar, Richard Oster, chief executive of Cookson, wasn't always a fan of the noble weed. In the heat of the abortive merger talks with Johnson Matthey, David Davies, chairman and chief executive, took his would-be partner to Fox, the cigar emporium on St James's Street, and selected a few hundred of Cuba's finest for the American to sample. Mrs Oster, less than enthused about her husband's new passion, however, particularly when the bill arrived. But for the Cookson chief executive, cigars are one of the better ideas that emerged from his dalliance with Johnson Matthey.

LEEDS, the textile company whose shares fell 30 per cent yesterday after a profit warning, was clearly acting out of hubris when it made its last acquisition — of an Italian company, prophetically named Nemesis.



Harrison: non-smoker

### Smoking ban

ANALYSTS and journalists walking into Molins's results meeting yesterday will have missed the fug of smoke that used to greet them. This is the first year that the cigarette machine company has banned smoking at the meeting. Since the arrival of Peter Harrison as chief executive and Peter Grant as finance director, both non-smokers, the company has cleaned up its act.

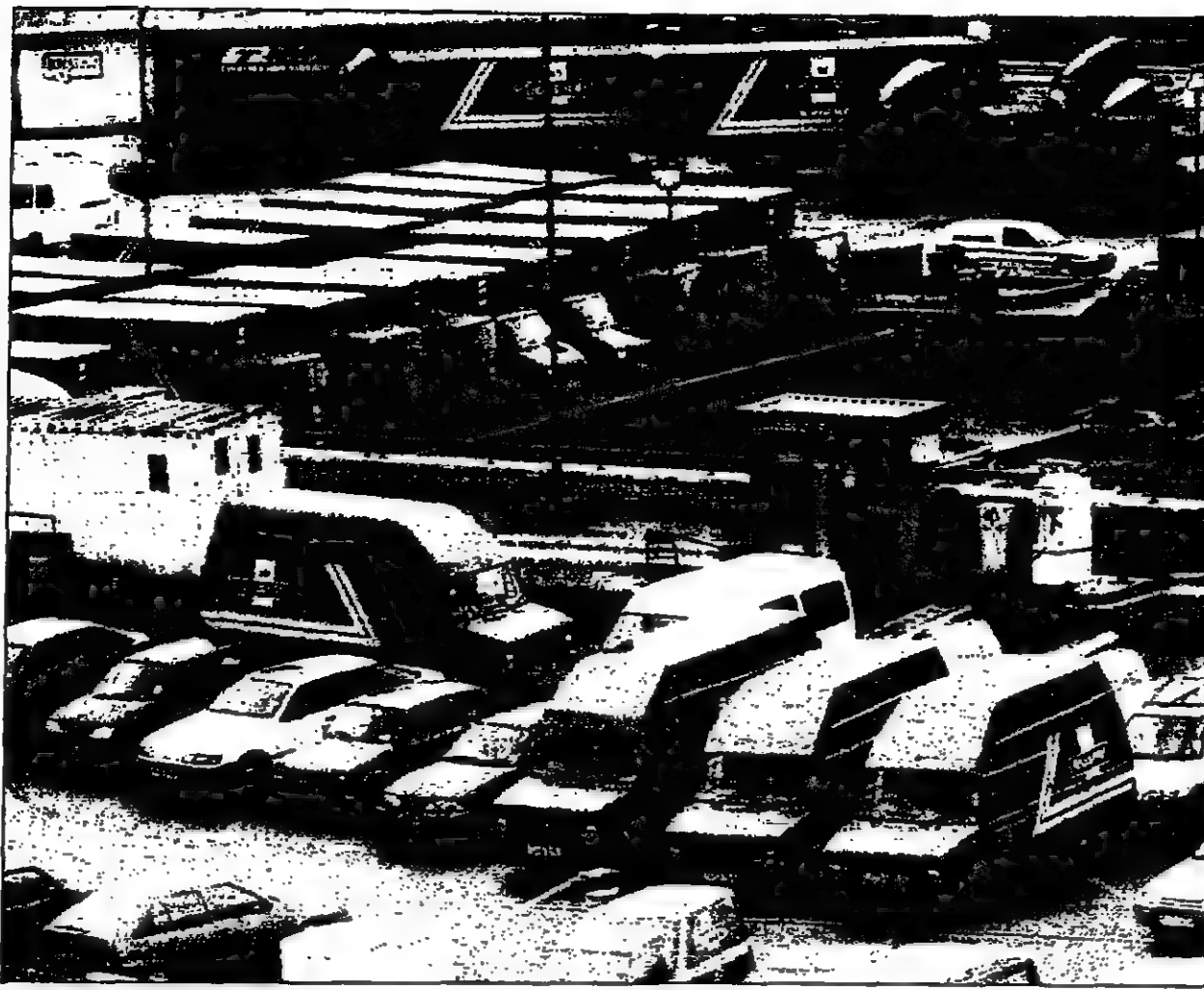
WHAT'S in a name? A lot according to M&G, Britain's oldest unit trust group, which has fielded more than 500 telephone calls since the news broke at the start of the week that all is not well at Morgan Grenfell. Anxious M&G investors asking "Is it true?" and M&G investors desperate to sell their European holdings have kept the switchboard busy. One caller singled out David Morgan, M&G's bemused managing director.

### Drip technique

YORKSHIRE WATER has agreed to pay £90,000 in compensation to the residents of a village in the Pennines after months of disruption caused by repair works to leaking water pipes. Cheques for £60 apiece will shortly be landing on the doorsteps of all 1,500 householders in Southowram. The inconvenience occurred while Yorkshire Water was working on a £12 million pilot scheme in Bradford and Calderdale, to reduce water leaks and establish how best to prevent leaks.

# Post Office's future may depend on this dispute with no winners

Philip  
Bassett on the  
stand-off in  
Royal Mail  
conflict



Standstill: mail strikes and suspension of the Post Office monopoly have failed to bring out commercial carriers

Britain's postal service is today on hold. The Government's month-long suspension of the Post Office's statutory letter monopoly ran out at midnight. But the main postal union is not yet calling more strikes. Squeezed in the middle, the Post Office's business is being hit hard.

Leaders of the Communication Workers' Union have deferred further strikes while putting the Royal Mail's current pay and practices package to branch secretaries next week. The tactic has thwarted plans of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to extend for three months a suspension of the under-£1 letter monopoly. The Post Office waits, fielding complaints about service in an era of ever-easier, ever-faster forms of communication.

The strikes mark a dispute that has gone badly wrong. Although danger signals were hoisted early this year by both sides, neither imagined that matters would reach the current state of bleak intransigence — with the Post Office's trade a heavy loser.

For the Post Office, the dispute has been nothing but bad news. This early test of John Roberts, its new chief executive, has been handled in a classic way: proposals, offers and revisions. This careful negotiation, taking in the full industrial relations machinery, including long visits to the conciliation service Acas, has looked weak to the Post Office's political and commercial opponents, and, to fundamentalists on the union side, it has appeared that further gains were endlessly available.

The Post Office has communicated its aims poorly. Even after eight strikes, few people are aware of why it sees the principle of US-style teamwork as so important to its future — though lurking beneath the American human resource language is an old-fashioned power struggle about who runs the job at

ground level — managers or workers.

The greatest risk to the Post Office has been in business terms. Much of its ultimately unsuccessful argument in recent years with the Government over greater commercial freedom and ultimately privatisation has been about competition — the hugely increased number of methods by which information can be sent. The Post Office estimates that it could be losing up to £5 billion in revenue for each strike day.

For business customers, the strikes really matter, too. For small firms awaiting orders or payments, not having the mail come can, in some cases, mean going under. In spite of faxes, careful company lawyers still usually require signed paper.

The Direct Marketing Association, representing firms selling to people at home, estimates that each day's strike has cost its members £1 million. Many companies, previously

wary of what they thought were technical complexities of electronic mail, have discovered through the strikes, that e-mailing, once set up, is only a mouse button away, and many will stick to this far-easier form after the dispute is over.

For the public, the dispute has had barely any impact, with the post becoming another of those so-called vital services that, when considered dispassionately in its absence, seems less indispensable than once thought. For most people, the post at home consists mainly of junk mail, which no one cares about, or bills, which most people are glad to see delayed.

On any one day, there is a substantial number of people with birthdays, or awaiting exam results, job offers or similar important mail — but it is a minority. In any case, people generally do not know that a letter is due to arrive, and so do not much miss it when it fails to come on one day, but pops

through the letterbox the next. It remains to be seen whether, with the end of the holiday period, public pressure to settle the dispute starts to rise.

For the Government, the dispute has, up to now, been far from a win. Postmen are popular, and even a string of strikes has not changed that yet, and, in spite of Mr Lang's pithy categorisation of the CWU as a "bonehead" union, ministers have not yet succeeded in depicting it as a villain.

Under pressure from Conservatives still smarting at the CWU's role in thwarting privatisation of the Royal Mail — some of whom see the strikes as an opportunity for revenge — ministers have adeptly used the postal strike, and the current rail and now-settled London Underground and British Airways disputes, to widen the argument.

Ministers have scored significant political points by re-raising, shortly before a general election, the trade union question — winning at least some public kudos from being seen to be doing something by reviewing the question of further employment law.

Indeed, Whitehall insiders acknowledge that, even with a Commons majority of only one, a quick trade union Bill before the election is far from impossible — particularly since ministers feel that it could help them to expose Labour Party divisions. Although Labour has largely kept its cool over the mail dispute, with Tony Blair calling the present package a pretty good offer and urging that it be put to a ballot of CWU members and Labour indicating that it will review its support for the postal workers if more strikes are called, ministers think a further Bill could expose differences between new Labour and old Labour.

However, the biggest failure for the Government in the dispute has been suspending the Post Office's letter monopoly. Seen by ministers as the ultimate weapon, its use has been much less than its threat. Ministers hoped that just raising the prospect of suspension would deflate the CWU — but that hope has proved forlorn. Commercial carriers such as TNT and DHL believe that the suspension so far has had little

impact on the market. Carrier companies — in any case often geared towards traffic to and from Britain, rather than inside it — judge that the big investment needed to penetrate the market is not justified by a month-long suspension of the monopoly, or even any subsequent three-month suspension. To even consider entering the market, carriers would need a full and permanent end to the Post Office monopoly — with TNT pressing the Government for its replacement by a sub-£1 letter duopoly of the Post Office and, unsurprisingly, TNT.

Small outfits, in Nottingham and London, for instance, have emerged to do local deliveries, for which the only investment is shoe leather. If the monopoly suspension is ended, they will be able to make ministers uncomfortable by urging them not to snuff out their entrepreneurship but to offer them licenses. In the main, their impact has been local and limited. The monopoly is back today unless the union calls more strikes.

The Government may be failing to benefit, and the Post Office's trade and its commercial customers may be losing out, but the CWU and its strikers are also being hit hard. The seizure of control of the dispute by the CWU's postal executive has so far removed what Post Office managers believe would have been a settlement long ago had the offer been put to union members. The executive's rejection of offers recommended by Alan Johnson, joint CWU general secretary, has damaged his credibility — already in doubt by some CWU activists, who felt that his close support for Mr Blair was leading him towards seeking a Labour seat.

For a close-knit union such as the CWU, still a formidable presence at work, the worst aspect of the dispute is that it is cracking. Post Office managers believe that up to a fifth of postal employees — about 15,000 — are now back working, and mail is unquestionably getting through on strike days, whatever the union claims centrally. Mostly this is in rural areas, where picking has been light or nil, and the solidity of key areas such as London's Mount Pleasant, Liverpool and Manchester makes an overall drift back to work unlikely. However, the harm to CWU coherence is done — and it is likely to worsen if strikes are stepped up beyond one-day stoppages.

All sides are playing a waiting game, with the union's next move likely to be made in the glare of publicity at next week's TUC conference. Pressure to settle is strong — but has so far been resisted with greater strength by union hardliners. The long-term future of the Post Office may well rest on the outcome.

## Hopes high as new captain takes over the helm at GEC

One of the top jobs in British industry is set to be taken up by a man on whose shoulders rests a mountain of expectations.

When George Simpson formally becomes the managing director of GEC on Monday he will end the 33-year reign of Lord Weinstock and begin — investors and brokers hope — a new era for the industrial giant which has been criticised for lumbering through life rather than striking forth.

Although Lord Weinstock will remain at GEC for some time, in the advisory position of chairman emeritus, it is now Simpson's show and hopes are high. It has been a long wait for a change of leadership at GEC. The appetite for what Simpson might bring to GEC was indicated when the share price jumped early in the year as news leaked that Lucas Industries was about to lose its chief executive to Britain's biggest manufacturer.

But if Simpson is true to his reputation, caution will be the watchword. The new GEC chief, who shaped his career at British Leyland and then British Aerospace before taking the reins at Lucas, is renowned for his long-term views. But GEC cannot afford to dawdle as international competitors quicken their step.

It is a company which has a finger in many industry pies but one which is led by defence and power systems — the manufacture of power-station equipment and rail and marine apparatus. After those come telecommunications and consumer durables. GEC, which builds submarines at its VSEL shipyards, is also the company behind Hotpoint cookers and Xpelair extraction systems.

GEC does not cover such a breadth of activity on its own. In a series of joint ventures forged over the last ten years it has responded to the fast-consolidating markets in much of its activities — pushing up volume without incurring huge costs. Defence is



George Simpson is renowned for his long-term view

through GEC-Alsthom: telecommunications is conducted by GPT, a 60-40 link with Siemens of Germany, and the consumer brands of Hotpoint. Creda and Xpelair among others are part of a joint venture with General Electric, GEC's US namesake.

High on Simpson's list must be to offload some of the more peripheral businesses. He could go so far as a demerger. But, while on the face of it GEC would lend itself to some splitting, the cloud of Hanson's poorly received demerger must hang over such considerations.

A merger is another possibility, fusing GEC's defence business with British Aerospace. A merger with BAE would bolster the defence side of the business as European aerospace companies increasingly sense the need to consolidate. Simpson, however, fresh

from buying the defence division, Thomson-CSF, Alcatel has few defence interests and would probably seek a partner, for which role GEC would seem to have ideal credentials. GEC already has a joint venture with Alcatel in GEC-Alsthom, the power systems business, which it recently further cemented by a move to buy Framatome, the French builder of nuclear power stations. The two partners will try to buy Framatome, in which Alcatel has a 44 per cent interest, after the French Government forced it to relinquish majority control six years ago. It is expected that the dual bid will provide Alcatel with additional funds with which to oil a bid for Thomson.

Further consolidation in European aerospace is high on the agenda of all participants. Europe has much to do to catch up with Raytheon and Hughes in the US and Simpson must position GEC among the frontrunners.

Then, of course, there is the question of what to do with GEC's almost legendary cash pile, amassed by Lord Weinstock. Last year interest from the cash mountain — which stands at £2.6 billion — contributed £51 million to profits. The hoarding of cash has been much to the chagrin of some investors who felt that a more aggressive stance would have delivered a more vigorous performance.

Simpson could return cash to shareholders via a special dividend or share buyback but the chances are that he will do none of these things hastily. Shareholders received a 12 per cent rise in the dividend with the last set of results. Profits before exceptional jumps through the psychologically important £1 billion mark and the order book is strong.

The expectations are high, possibly too high. Activity may be fast in GEC's markets but the new chief executive knows that his positioning of the company to face the next century is crucial.

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Small firms under Labour

From Ms Barbara Roche, MP

Commenting on Labour's manifesto for business, Pennington (September 5) suggests that small firms will be hit by Labour's plans for youth training.

Nothing could be further from the truth. One of our proposals is that small firms who taken on a long-term unemployed person aged under 25 and offer relevant training should receive a £60 per week tax rebate which could be claimed up front in a lump sum of £1,560.

This would offer small firms who choose to participate help with the perennial problem of cashflow, whilst reducing youth unemployment and improving the skills of these young people.

Small firms are essential to our economy because of the wealth they create, the jobs they provide and the ideas and technology they develop. They have been let down time and again by this tired Tory Government, whose policy initiatives now boil down to raising taxes and increasing burdens. In contrast, Labour is working with business to come up with sensible and innovative ideas to support this vital sector, as well as raising the nation's skills base. Both are essential if Britain is once again to become competitive.

Yours faithfully  
BARBARA ROCHE MP  
Shadow Small Business Minister  
House of Commons, SW1.

#### End gambling in securities trade

From Mr David Bickerton  
Sir, Given the embarrassment which Flemings must feel at the uncovering of their own rogue trader in Hong Kong, is it not obvious that employees of securities houses (like their colleagues at accountancy, legal and management consultancy firms) should be effectively banned from trading on their own account in the financial markets? Either one is a dispassionate professional or a punter, not both.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BICKERTON,  
Leycester,  
Cornells Lane,  
Widdington,  
Essex.

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# IBM unveils \$700 Internet desktop computer

FROM RICHARD THOMSON  
IN NEW YORK

IBM has become the first large computer company to launch a "stripped down" desktop computer, which many in the high-technology industry see as the next generation of computer hardware, for less than \$700.

Yesterday's announcement means that IBM has won the race between major computer makers to produce the new type of computer, which is designed to be more accessible and affordable for ordinary users. Although Acorn, a British

company, developed such a computer several months ago it does not have the same market clout to sell its product as IBM. IBM claims the new device will have as big an impact as the original desktop PC that it popularised and set standards for in the early Eighties.

The new machine is about the size and shape of a telephone directory standing on end. It does not contain programmes of its own but uses software downloaded from the Internet. It can carry out the most popular functions of desktops, such as word processing and spreadsheets, but is specially designed to work

with the Internet and internal company computer networks.

IBM is initially going after the corporate market where companies are eager to find savings on computer equipment. The machines will cost under \$700, compared with more than \$2,000 for an ordinary desktop, and will be cheaper to maintain and run. IBM claims they will cost roughly half the amount of an ordinary desktop over a five-year period.

The company will launch a consumer version of the new machine next year. Other leading computer companies are expected to launch

their versions in the near future. The new machines are a serious threat to Microsoft, which has gained its dominance by providing operating software for desktops. The fact that they can be downloaded from the Internet is one reason Microsoft is scrambling to gain a dominant position on the system. But so far it is lagging smaller competitors such as Netscape.

IBM is part of a group of computer companies, including Netscape, Oracle, Sun Microsystems and Apple — but excluding Microsoft — developing common standards for the new computer.

## Arjo suffers worst time since flotation

By CLARE STEWART

A SHARP fall in the price of pulp, combined with a decline in demand, took their toll on first-half results at Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper manufacturer. At the pre-tax levels profits fell from £135.3 million to £32.3 million in the six months to June 30.

After last month's profit warning by the company, the market was braced for the figures, but the results still came in just below some analysts' revised expectations. In common with other paper producers, Arjo Wiggins has found itself squeezed by the impact of a sharp fall in pulp and paper prices and a worse than expected decline in demand.

Cob Stenham, chairman of Arjo, described the first half of 1996 and the second half of 1995 as "the worst period the group has experienced since its flotation".

In Europe margins in Arjo's carbonless and thermal papers were particularly squeezed by the difficult conditions, though improved demand for the high value products of the fine papers division helped its profits to recover. Turnover in Europe

overall fell 9 per cent to £712.4 million, while operating profits dropped from a profit of £38.1 million last year to a loss of £6.2 million.

Results from its French businesses showed a drop in operating profits from £40.3 million to £8.2 million, while in the UK profits fell from £17.6 million to £8.1 million.

A £120 million restructuring programme is under way as Arjo Wiggins seeks to reduce fixed costs and streamline capacity. About 600 jobs will be affected by the changes, the benefits of which, says the company, will be seen in 1997.

In North America, in spite of weaker demand, the picture was brighter as 1995 price increases were maintained and profit margins improved as the cost of pulp fell. Operating profits fell from £62.4 million to £39.9 million.

Profits were also down in Arjo's merchanting business as lower demand and falling prices ate into operating profits, which dropped from £37.6 million to £18.7 million.

There are some signs of improvement in the market. Destocking appears, says Mr Stenham, to be over and the order books are stronger. But he added: "Economic growth prospects through the second half of the year remain unexciting, particularly in Europe."

Arjo is paying an unchanged dividend of 2.90p. Its shares ended 5p lower at 181½p.

Analysts have cut full-year forecasts several times this year, in the wake of Arjo's profit warnings. UBS, the company's broker, is looking for profits of £130 million, having revised its original forecast of £160 million pre-tax.



Stenham: order books up

Tempus, page 26



James Frost blames price war by Esso for a 40 per cent first-half volume decline

## Frost feels price war heat

FROST, Britain's fourth-largest petrol station chain, yesterday said its decision not to join the petrol price war and guard its margins had led to a 40 per cent volume drop in the first half of the year (Fraser Nelson writes).

James Frost, chairman, blamed Esso's Price Watch scheme for its poor results, as he posted pre-tax profits of £3.8 million in the first half,

compared with 5.6 million. Predicting a tough second half, he said only Esso could call a halt to the price war, but predicted this would not happen until the end of the year.

With a six-month contribution from Burmah, the petrol wholesaler bought in July last year, turnover shot to £242 million (£143 million). Operating profit was 2.3 per cent of sales, against 4 per cent.

The group spent £5.68 million on restructuring costs, as it continues to shed the sites bought from Burmah. From 804 sites purchased last year, fewer than 500 remain. The group aims to close a further 250.

Earnings were down from 6p to 3.5p per share. A maintained interim dividend of 3.2p will be paid on January 1.

## Simon to cut debt mountain with sale

By FRASER NELSON

SIMON ENGINEERING, the hydraulic platforms to process engineering group, has agreed to put its entire access provision business on the auction block in a bid to eliminate its spiralling debt.

The move comes after pressure from its bankers, which have watched Simon's borrowings grow from £75.1 million to £82.7 million over the first half of the year. After the sale, the group will be reduced to half its current size.

Simon's shares fell from 49p to an all-time low of 39p yesterday before settling at 41½p. Analysts said this reflected the uncertainty about how much the disposals would fetch and how long it would take to find a buyer.

If the sale goes through, Simon will be left with its storage and process engineering divisions. While this will more than halve Simon's turnover, profits will be barely affected. In the six months to June 30, the access provision division generated 49 per cent of sales, but only 18 per cent of operating profit.

Maurice Dixon, chief executive, said the division's impact on pre-tax profits was smaller still. While trading at the operations was recoverable, debt had become too "expensive and time-consuming". He said that the group would be looking at bolt-on acquisitions for the storage businesses, and added he was looking at four possible buys.

Its access provision division commands 15 per cent of a fragmented worldwide market. In the US, the business generated operating profit of £3.9 million, but heavy losses in the UK and elsewhere totalled £2.4 million.

Pre-tax profits were at £3.7 million (£2.4 million), on sales up from £147 million to £166 million. Gearing rose from 97 per cent to 104 per cent, as debt overtook equity once again. Simon gave warning that the second half would be little different, with profits at about last year's levels.

Earnings rose from 0.4p to 0.6p per share. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Cattles interim rises on better earnings

CATTLES, the financial services group, reports an increase in half-time profits for the six months to June 30. Its pre-tax figure grew 17 per cent to £14.7 million, compared with £12.6 million a year ago. Within its consumer division Shopcheck, one of Britain's largest weekly collected credit companies, increased its profit 14 per cent to £9.98 million. This excludes the first time a contribution from Shopaplan, which made a stand-alone profit of £270,000, well below last year's estimated £500,000. Cattles said it would put greater priority on retaining Shopaplan customers once it has been fully separated from Shopcheck. The customer base increased by 13,000 since the beginning of the year.

Cattles's earnings per share were 7.2p, up 16 per cent and on November 4 the company will pay a 2.8p interim, up from 2.45p. Peter Courtney, the chairman, said: "Progress continues in all sectors of the business and we look forward with confidence to another successful year."

## Friendly close on deals

FRIENDLY HOTELS revealed yesterday that it was close to a number of acquisitions after reporting a modest increase in half-year profits. Henry Edwards, chairman, said the company was near to signing several deals and would be using the £10 million invested in the company by Choice Hotels, the US company, to help expansion. The company also intends to develop a chain of leisure clubs. Profits for the six months to June 9 rose 3 per cent to £1.2 million. Turnover increased 4 per cent to £18.4 million. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.2p, payable on January 10. Shares closed 2.5p up at 177.5p.

## Sanwa files charge

SANWA BANK, a leading Japanese commercial bank, has filed a breach of trust charge against a former official who allegedly embezzled 550 million yen (about £2.5 million). The bank says the former manager of its Yukigaya branch in central Tokyo had run up debts totalling ¥100 million in commodity futures and equities. The alleged deficiency was discovered by the bank on April 5. Starting in April, Sanwa strengthened its monitoring of large accounts and its internal auditing. The case is now under police investigation.

## Ashanti refinances

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS has refinanced the former Cluff Resources operations in Zimbabwe, trimming interest charges by more than \$1 million a year. The saving has been achieved through a \$40 million loan with UBS and Dresdner Bank, enabling the refinancing of \$28 million of high-coupon debt. The deal has freed \$12 million to fund expansion of the Freda Rebecca mine near Harare. Ashanti has been integrating operations since acquiring Cluff Resources several months ago.

## Psion extends range

PSION, the computer company, has unveiled two additions to its range of palmtop computers in an attempt to further boost market share. The Psion Series 3c, an updated version of the Series 3a, comes in two models, selling for £399.95 and £339.95. A new organiser, the Psion Siena, condenses the features of the Series 3a into a shirt-pocket-sized format. There are two models, costing £229.95 and £169.95. Psion has about 33 per cent of the worldwide market in palmtops. Its closest rival is Hewlett Packard, with about 28 per cent.

## China must meet criteria

A WORLD Trade Organisation (WTO) without China is a global trade body with a missing limb, but the world's most populous nation still must meet basic criteria before gaining entry, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said in Peking yesterday. He cited trade transparency, market access, tariffs and legal structures as areas that needed further exploration. A WTO working group will meet this year in Geneva to try to negotiate a deal that would allow China's accession, but China said last month its prospects appeared bleak.

## Fitzwilton advances

FITZWILTON, the Irish holding company, lifted interim profits 13 per cent to £15.1 million in the half year to June 30, helped by a jump in retail sales at its Wellworld subsidiary, one of Northern Ireland's largest chain stores. Earnings per share rose 16 per cent to 11.37p and the company declared an increase of 5 per cent in the interim dividend to 11.1p, payable on January 31. Fitzwilton's 13 per cent stake in Waterford Wedgwood, the ceramic and crystal manufacturer, contributed £1.6 million.

## Vanguard R&D 'ahead'

VANGUARD MEDICA, the drugs development company, said yesterday that research and development on three of its drugs, including a migraine treatment known as VML 251, was ahead of schedule. The company, which was founded by six industry veterans, said that VML 251 will probably be the first of five new drugs to reach the market. Vanguard reported a pre-tax loss of £3.7 million in the half year to June 30, against a loss of £1.8 million previously. The deeper loss was expected. The shares closed at 49p, down 7½p.

## Wellington growth plan

WELLINGTON HOLDINGS, the industrial rubber manufacturer, is resuming its quest for acquisitions with cash reserves of £10 million to fund expansion. In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits rose to £2.99 million (£2.32 million) on sales of £8.83 million (£7.97 million). An interim dividend of 2.7p (2.4p) will be paid on November 5. While revenue from France and Germany fell Wellington said many of the lost orders were won by its UK operations, as car manufacturers opened plants in the UK and the Irish Republic.

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## Fine showing by Royal Doulton

By CLARE STEWART

SOARING sales of fine china in Japan and Australia helped Royal Doulton, which manufactures the Royal Albert and Minton brands, to lift its first half profits by 17 per cent to £4.2 million.

Royal Doulton saw sales overall rise by 5.4 per cent to £114.1 million, while earnings rose 20.5 per cent to 5.3p per share.

Stuart Lyons, the chief executive, said Australia and Japan showed the strongest performance. In Japan profits have risen to just over £500,000, compared with break-even last year.

In America, which accounts for just under a third of profits, further expansion is underway, said Mr Lyons. Nine more shops are to open before the year-end to make a total of 58. He said that sales in America have shown very good growth in the first half.

UK sales in the first half were also strong, with the key Christmas season to come. Retail sales were steady, with the division's performance helped by the trend away from price discounting and by increased consumer spending.

In addition to sales through concessions and its own Lawleys stores, there was a good performance from the division supplying retailers, such as Marks & Spencer, and from its hotels and airlines business.

Investment in its Indonesian factory was just under £4.9 million in the first half, bringing the total cost to £9.2 million. Full production begins next March.

Royal Doulton is increasing its interim dividend 12.5 per cent to 2p. On the stock market its shares closed 10p better at 295½p.

## Profits warning hits Leeds Group

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES of Leeds Group, the textiles manufacturer, fell 30 per cent yesterday after it gave warning that profits would be significantly lower than last year's £7.5 million.

Robert Wade, chairman, said that the increase in imports of cheaply-made cloth-

ing and the continuing depressed retail sectors in Germany and France had damaged the group's business. Despite the company's problems, it intended to maintain the final dividend, which last year was 4.4p net.

In June, the company reported an interim pre-tax profit of £3.27 million, compared with £3.61 million a year earlier.

Mr Wade said the Strines subsidiary has "been at the eye of the storm". Business with UK customers was down 50 per cent in the past six months. The withdrawal of Liberty, for years Strines's largest customer, from its fabric converting business has been a particularly heavy blow, he said. He added that "he remains concerned about the outlook for this division".

Wade: "eye of the storm"

City diary, page 27

## Thistle Hotels boosts Brierley

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BRIERLEY INVESTMENTS, the New Zealand holding company headed by Sir Ron Brierley, said yesterday that a strong rise in the market value of its 70 per cent owned Thistle Hotels. Britain's second largest hotel chain, was one of the key reasons behind a sharp rise in the value of its assets in the year to June 1996.

The group also confirmed that it intends to float about 20 per cent of its Thistle stake on the London stock market in October after the launch of a prospectus this month.

Paul Collins, chief executive, said: "Thistle Hotels' value has materially improved as a result of strong earnings

growth and rapidly improving asset values within the UK hotel sector."

Brierley Investments increased its intrinsic value — the company's own assessment of its value — from NZ\$3.50 billion (£1.52 billion) to NZ\$4.19 billion for the year to June 1996, representing a value of NZ\$1.40 a share, up from NZ\$1.25. Net assets per share rose from NZ\$1.21 to NZ\$1.23.

Brierley's performance was also boosted by an increase in the market value of its 51 per cent stake in Sky City, a casino in Auckland, which now exceeds its book value by NZ\$230 million.

Total net profits fell 28.1 per cent to

NZ\$310.3 million, with dividends received from investments over the year down from NZ\$93 million to NZ\$36 million.

Mr Collins said: "Some of the New Zealand businesses, including Air New Zealand, are presently experiencing rather more difficult trading times due to the slowdown in the local economy and the strong New Zealand dollar."

However, the present expectation is that earnings from operations will be satisfactory in the current year. He added: "The new financial year has started well with Thistle Hotels maintaining its strong growth in earnings."

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## Modest gains in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>						
556	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
557	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
558	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
559	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
560	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>BANKS</b>						
1716	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
1717	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
1718	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
1719	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
1720	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>BREWERY, PUBS &amp; REST</b>						
30	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
31	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
32	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
33	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
34	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>CHEMICALS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>ENGINEERING</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>INSURANCE</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>LEISURE &amp; HOTELS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>MINING</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>PROPERTY</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>RETAILERS, FOOD</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>RETAILERS, GENERAL</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>WATER</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>PRINTING &amp; PAPER</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>						
10	10.00	9.80	Adnams	9.90	-2.0	10.0
11	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
12	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
13	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
14	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
15	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
16	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
17	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
18	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
19	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
20	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
21	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
22	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
23	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
24	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
25	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
26	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
27	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
28	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
29	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
30	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
31	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
32	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
33	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
34	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
35	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
36	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
37	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
38	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
39	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
40	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
41	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
42	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
43	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
44	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
45	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
46	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
47	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
48	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
49	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
50	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
51	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
52	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
53	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
54	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
55	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
56	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
57	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
58	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
59	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
60	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
61	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
62	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
63	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
64	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
65	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
66	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
67	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
68	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
69	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
70	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
71	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
72	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
73	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
74	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
75	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
76	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
77	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
78	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
79	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
80	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
81	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
82	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
83	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
84	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
85	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
86	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
87	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
88	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
89	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
90	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
91	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
92	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
93	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
94	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
95	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
96	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
97	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
98	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
99	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		
100	10.00	9.80	Adnams	<		









THEATRE 1

At the Mermaid, Ninagawa's *Dream* mixes visual joy with astounding energy...



THEATRE 2

... while, across the river, the Globe offers a plainer but no less rewarding midsummer night

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM

Christopher Hampton is among those who will present scripts in a new BFI initiative



TOMORROW

A skyscraper too far? Can London's city vista take another high-rise monster?

Contrasting *Midsummer Night's Dreams* in London: Ninagawa's superb vision at the Mermaid; Northern Broadside at the Globe

# Yes, yes to the Noh view

Nobody has ever seen a Shakespearean fairy, which means that he or she does not have to be a cute, winged tot with an air for Mendelssohn. Fairies can be acrobats and trapeze artists, as they were in Peter Brook's revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

They can also be dreamy-looking Japanese with flowers sprouting from their hair who dance across white dunes covered with red poppies. Accompanied as they sometimes are by a Puck who double-somersaults through thin pillars of light down which sand pours, these androgynous beings do much to ensure that Yukio Ninagawa's *Dream* remains a visual joy.

But his production at the Mermaid is far more than that. The grudging English philistine who lurks in my head feared that a Japanese *Dream* without subtitles would be a long, worthy slog. But even if, like me, you understand little but the occasional "Tighten up" or "Bottom", the evening is irresistible. I cannot recall a *Dream* that so splendidly combined energy and theatricality, ferocity and fun.

The programme informs us that the big pustular stones scattered around the bare set symbolise "a Buddhist view of the world". So they may. But what we want are fairies who astonish, lovers with verve and pep, mechanicals who genuinely amuse. Many productions achieve one or even two of these things. Ninagawa gives us all three — and to the accompaniment of music that sometimes sounds Japanese, sometimes as if Handel has been collaborating with Andrew Lloyd Webber.

As often nowadays, Oberon and Titania are performed by the same actors who play Theseus and Hippolyta. Unlike many English directors, though, Ninagawa does not use this doubling to suggest that the humans are solving their conflicts by dreaming that they are quarrelsome spirits. Tetsuro Sagawa's solid, bearded Theseus beams

happily at Kayoko Shiraishi's svelte Hippolyta — then both are transformed beyond recognition. It is not just that they wear small gardens on their heads. They come at each other like luxuriant titans.

There really is war in fairyland, as the text suggests. Sagawa growls, rages, cackles with glee at the idea of revenge. Shiraishi rasps, snarls and she falls for Bottom. Shaking, gurgling and squealing, she fondles his ass's tail and grabs him hungrily by the legs. Goro Daimon, whose loquacious weaver has seemed ready for anything, emerges from her bed looking shattered. Thus do Ninagawa's actors bring brashness and bite to often bland encounters.

Yet Oberon and Titania — witness Shiraishi's wincing horror when she sees Bottom as he is — do not lack humour. Nor do lovers who, regardless of gender, flail, kick and square up to each other like all-in boxers. Nor do mechanicals who invade the Noh-like atmosphere on bikes with modern caps, gaudy pants and, in the case of Bottom, a steel barbecue on which he cooks fast food. The scene in which they cover from the transformed weaver becomes a slow-motion ballet of hilarious double-takes. And for once *Pyramus and Thisbe* does not disappoint.

That is largely because Bottom's doublet and hose and ever-changing wig suggest that he cannot decide if he is Barrymore's Hamlet or Irving's Richard III. It is also because Thisbe becomes a dwarfish geisha, a naked Wall forlornly sheds loam, and Lion (or, here, Dragon) is played by a former Sumo wrestler called Ofuji. When this man-mountain removes his mask and reassures the ladies that he is Snug the joiner, he becomes twice, thrice as menacing. It is a wonderfully funny bit of business in a magnificently inventive production.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Kayoko Shiraishi as Titania, Goro Daimon as Bottom, in Yukio Ninagawa's stunning production at the Mermaid

# It works like a dream without costumes, too

Barrie Rutter's splendid company, Northern Broadside, returned on Monday from a successful tour of Brazil to give a single performance at the Bankside Globe — and when Rutter's Oberon walked on stage for the second half, in his black coat pinned with coloured favours and a flowery hat topped with pheasant feathers, he was rewarded with cheers from groundlings and galleries alike. He smiled almost sheepishly, recognising that it was the entrance of the coat and hat that had earned the applause.

British Airways managed to lose the company's three cases of costumes somewhere between Rio and Heathrow, and the cast were obliged to perform in the clothes they arrived in. So Lysander and Demetrius looked more alike than usual in T-shirts sporting the company's logo, a Yorkshire boar, and the mechanicals became fairies by changes of stance and motion alone.

The costumes arrived just in time for the ass's headpiece, a sort of pixie hood with ears, to be fitted on to Peter Gunn's Bottom, where it made him look not so much like a vile thing — although fairy aesthetics may be different from ours — as ridiculously self-satisfied in his ignorance. "Lead him to my bower," commands Ishia Bennison's Titania in her earthiest, hungriest tones, and Gunn is borne off backwards on a trolley, complaisant and complacent to the end.

This round O of a theatre JEREMY KINGSTON

# Give me a break, Mr Spielberg

Geoff Brown on a season that unearths forgotten film scripts

In the beginning was the word, both in life and the movies. Many films get no further than the words. The script the writer slaved over lies beautifully typed but stays on the shelf, unproduced. As far as the public is concerned, the script never existed. Until now: for a new initiative by the British Film Institute, the Script Factory, is about to unfold, offering professional public readings of British film scripts awaiting the kiss of life. *The Times* is one of the sponsors.

Most readings will take place at London's October Gallery. Admission costs £10, rather more than a West End cinema ticket, though supper is thrown in, plus the chance to make a movie in your head.

Charlotte Macleod, the organiser, has arranged similar events in New York, where every waiter has a script ready to foist on a producer dining out. There is no shortage of material in Britain either: films that never got made far outnumber those that do.

Established writers fall by the wayside just as often as writers eager to make their mark: having a masterly script by Harold Pinter did nothing to help Joseph Losey to bring *Proust* to the screen. In the Script Factory season, Royal Court playwright Nick Grosso is offering his first cinema project.

*Ruff Cuts*. Allan Scott, Nicolas Roeg's collaborator, has gone into the file cabinet for *The Practical Heart*. And Christopher Hampton will be waiting to hear what *Nostramo* sounds like under its director-in-waiting, Hugh Hudson.

Conrad's novel *Nostramo* has been spectacularly unlucky in its journey to the screen. Losey, uncrowned king of the unmade film, tried to mount a version in the 1950s. Thirty years later, David Lean got going with a Hampton script, but delays and worries over Lean's health hastened the project's cancellation. After Lean died, Hampton reworked his script for Hudson; that script, too, is now stalled over funding.

As well as being fun for the public, the readings are aimed at film-makers, backers, agents — anyone who could help the scripts to move off the page. In some cases success will come too late for the writer: David Mercer, who adapted Wyndham Lewis's black comedy *The Snooty Baronet* for Losey in 1968, died 16 years ago. We may not be able to get Richard Burton for the baronet but Richard Harris, another vintage casting suggestion, is still available. Any takers?

The Script Factory opens on Sept 25 at the October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 (0171-580 1052).



Movie hopefuls: Christopher Hampton and Allan Scott

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## POP 1

The Pet Shop Boys go a touch South American on their fine new album, *Bilingual*



## POP 2

... while Neneh Cherry will be hoping to put the resounding flop of *Homebrew* behind her with *Man*

## THE TIMES POP ARTS



## POP 3

Travelling Without Moving is Jamiroquai's attempt to broaden their acid-jazz image



## POP 4

... and R.E.M. find a new lease of magic in the potent brew of *New Adventures in Hi-Fi*

POP ALBUMS: Pet Shop Boys finally get funky; Neneh Cherry takes on James Brown — David Sinclair becomes a slave to the rhythm

## Shopping till they bop

## PET SHOP BOYS

*Bilingual* (Parlophone 8 53102)  
WITH the return to traditional rock 'n' roll values by the current wave of Britpop bands, the 1980s synth-pop duo who were supposed to usher in a brave new world of pop without guitars have become an endangered species.

However, Pet Shop Boys have risen to the challenge with an album of innovation and unusual charm. The most obvious change is a welcome shift away from the one-beat-fits-all, paper-bag snare sound in favour of a variety of South American-style rhythms. On *Discotheque* and *Single* the massed percussion effects conjure the atmosphere of a Brazilian carnival, while on *Electricity* the Boys successfully locate a funk groove for the first time in a long career.

The melodies of *Se A Vida É (That's The Way Life Is)* and *The Survivors* have a genuine sparkle, and the words are written from a much more heartfelt perspective: "Come outside and feel the morning sun... Life is much more simple when you're young."

They have always been clever, but this has got soul too.

## NENEH CHERRY

*Man* (Hut/Virgin 7243 8 41981)  
NENEH CHERRY's last album, *Homebrew*, failed even to breach the Top 25, but the

inclusion of last year's global hit single, *7 Seconds* (with Youssou N'Dour), will be enough to ensure that *Man* enjoys considerably greater success, and thankfully it is a much livelier collection.

Cherry toughs her way through a variety of musical settings, convincingly enough for the most part. The rap elements that she deployed on her early hits have been ditched in favour of a more conventional singing style. She pastiches James Brown's ballad formula on *Woman* (a gritty riposte to Brown's classic *It's A Man's Man's Man's World*), and hollers through the trip-hop murk of *Together Now*, a collaboration with Tricky built on an amazingly propulsive cross-rhythmic riff.

The cod-flamenco guitar arrangement of *Golden Ring* strikes a more reflective tone, while a stripped-down, fractured-rhythm version of Marvin Gaye's *Trouble Man* provides the perfect vehicle for her 1990s homiegirl attitude.

Quibbles would have to include a ponderous heavy rocker called *Koochi* and the fact that the blindingly obvious descending sequence from *7 Seconds* keeps popping up with disconcerting frequency.

JAMIROQUAI  
*Travelling Without Moving* (Sony SP 4839992)  
HAVING established themselves as the undisputed kings

of the acid-jazz scene with their first two albums, Jamiroquai have made a determined attempt to broaden their appeal on *Travelling Without Moving*. The old fireworks are still in evidence on *Use the Force*, where horns, wah-wah guitar and a rippling barrage of Latin percussion chunder away behind Jay Kay's jazzy vocals. But more typical is the easy-going disco-funk of *Alright*, while *Cosmic Girl* owes more to the crossover pop of ELO or Level 42 than it does to the serious jazz-fusion influences of Stevie Wonder or Herbie Hancock.

Other efforts to extend their range, including a sprightly reggae tune (*Drifting Along*) and a couple of mature soul ballads (*Everyday* and *Spend a Lifetime*), are somewhat undermined by the aimless didgeridoo noodling which dominates *Didjerama* and the drifting instrumental *Digital Vibrations*, numbers which suggest that *Travelling Without Moving* is a title that could come back to haunt them.

R.E.M.  
*New Adventures in Hi-Fi* (Warner Bros. 9362-46320)  
ALTHOUGH not as prolific as their labelmates Prince and Neil Young, R.E.M. are pushing ahead at a surprising clip for a superstar band at their time of life — with outstanding results.

Written and recorded for the



Water boys: Pet Shop Boys and, er, pets get into the swim with an album of "innovation and unusual charm" plus some South American rhythms

most part during the hectic whirl of last year's ill-fated *Monster* tour, *New Adventures in Hi-Fi* is a long, rich and well-rounded collection that sounds anything but made-on-the-hoop. Never too obvious or too odd, it is an album which manages to invest all manner of arrangements with an unmistakable aura of magic, from the hefty guitar riffing of *Departure* to

the cheesy, one-finger organ and piano lines of *How The West Was Won And Where It Got Us*.

As ever, Michael Stipe hints at vaguely profound thoughts, while making care not to state his case too baldly. "This fame thing, I don't get it," he announces with a gloriously wistful flourish in *E-Bow The Letter*, after piling an avalanche of half-spoken lyrics on

to a melody as haunting as any in the group's songbook. Whether you take your cup of R.E.M. with straight acoustic guitar (as on *New Test Leper*), a twist of strange industrial noise (*Underworld*) or a full-bore dose of war-torn (*The Wake-Up Bomb*), the flavour at the core of this album is a constant delight.

David Sinclair interviews R.E.M. in The Times next Friday.

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Jagged Little Pill... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 2 Moseley Shoals... Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- 3 Coming Up... Suede (Nude)
- 4 The Smurfs Go Pop!... The Smurfs (EMI TV)
- 5 Older... George Michael (Virgin)
- 6 (What's The Story) Morning Glory?... Oasis (Creation)
- 7 The Score... Fugees (Columbia)
- 8 Recurring Dream... Crowded House (Capitol)
- 9 Free Peace Sweet... Dodgy (A&M)
- 10 No Code... Pearl Jam (Epic)

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## Everything's changed — forever?

The Boo Radleys' new album marks a radical departure from the group's previous output of mushy melancholia

The story so far. Sice and Martin are childhood friends, dreaming of pop stardom. Martin has manic depressive tendencies, and wants fame to avenge his bullying school teachers. Sice is a cheery soul, and wants to say "Thank you very much New York, goodnight" while being rushed from the stage by his minders. They form a band called the Boo Radleys. Martin writes the songs, and Sice sings them. Their first album, *Everything's Alright Forever*, is a slice of skewed acid loveliness that gets largely dismissed.

Undeterred, they release the tirelessly inventive dub-pop-rock *Giant Steps* a year and a half later, which gradually grows on the press and public alike until it's voted Album of the Year by *Select* magazine, and sells enough for the band to buy smart new suits. A year and a half later, they release 1995's national anthem, *Wake Up Boo!* and the album, *Wake Up*, which is full of melancholic pop and goes straight in at No 1. Martin and Sice are suddenly famous. There are teenage girls, who scream on cue: there is champagne, which is drunk with much relish. Their faces appear on *Smash Hits* stickers.

"It was just as silly as you imagine it, if not sillier," Sice giggles. "Appearing on kids' TV with huge dancing tomatoes. Doing the Radio 1 Roadshow with Simon Mayo dressed in a foam rubber

sumo-wrestler's body." "Yeah, but that was the good stuff," Martin chips in. "We really liked that. It's the serious things that are a drag: I had a journalist from Belgium testing me on my genres this morning. He'd say 'Dub: now who is your favourite dub artist? Okay, yes, now, acid jazz: who is your favourite acid jazz artist? And European trance? And Bulgarian folk?' It was like doing some pop star exam — halfway through I started to feel really panicky that I hadn't revised."

You can see where the Belgian journalist's confusion arose, however, when you surrender your ears to the Boo Radleys' new album, *C'mon Kids*. The fevered eclecticism will shock those who only know the Boo Radleys for the Britpop/Motown of *Wake Up Boo!* With *C'mon Kids*, the Boo Radleys have returned to their roots: contrary sound alchemists at least four steps ahead of their peers. *C'mon Kids* veers from the Pinball Wizard pyro-



CAITLIN MORAN

technics of *What's in the Box* to the Simon and Garfunkel finger-picking of *New Brighton Promenade*, to the scuffed dub of *Fortunate Sons* and several songs that sound like nothing else on earth.

"Well, I'm fed up of hearing records where you can guess what the next chord's gonna be," Martin explains. "Music should scare you. Chords should jump out on you. The chorus should be a surprise." And he isn't afraid to go out as far as the Earth's atmosphere will let him. Take, for instance, the last two chapters of the album — *Ride the Tiger* and *One Last Hurrah*. It's been a long time since an album bowed out on such a boat-burning high: *Ride the Tiger* is Martin's apology to his ex-girlfriend for his sybaritic lifestyle, and inability to quit the bright lights of London to live in Preston with her.

"I could get by on being alive but having no life," Martin explains. "But I don't want to miss a trick/Don't want to regret anything/I want to stand next to the first/Take it higher/Ride the tiger." Your spine will curl up like a retractable tape-measure when you hear it: wildly distorting guitars are layered upon vocal harmonies and edge-of-sound samples until the whole thing goes white-out.

As the last notes fade, *One Last Hurrah* steamrollers up to full volume — a thudding, growling sound, like a pressing plant, with Sice riffing away like a Hindu priest singing devotionals. A wrenching, sickening chord-change takes the song into a narcotic dream-world, hazy and sweet, with Sice murmuring "One last hurrah" — at which point Martin starts on a 4am guitar solo: a red-eyed, full-on burst of frazzled, keening inspiration.

"I'll be surprised if all the fans of *Wake Up Boo!* like the album," Martin says, with a wry smile. "We get a different set of fans for each album anyway, but if we can just bring a couple of *Wake Up* fans over and convert them to the strong stuff, I'll be pleased. This is the kind of thing people should be listening to. Mind you, I would say that, wouldn't I?"

The album, *C'mon Kids*, is released by Creation Records on Monday. The Boo Radleys host a "happening" at the Kilburn National in London next Thursday.

## JAZZ ALBUMS

### The sweet and the power

GERRY MULLIGAN  
*The Complete Pacific Jazz Recordings of the Gerry Mulligan Quartet with Chet Baker* (Pacific Jazz, CDP 7243 5 38263 2 2)

AS the admirably detailed liner notes to this lovingly packaged four-CD set remind us, the celebrated West Coast pianoless quartet led by the young Gerry Mulligan from 1952 onwards "merely whispered where other bands belted". Such restraint is frequently seen as the hallmark of the jazz played in the area at the time: certainly, words such as "delicacy", "light" and "sweet" abound in most descriptions of the work of one of the most enduringly popular front-line pairings in the music.

Prolonged exposure to this comprehensive set, though — it comprises not only the initial informal 1952 sessions and the subsequent live material from LA's the Haig, but also the 1957 New York "reunion" recordings, plus collaborations with alto player Lee Konitz and singer Annie Ross — reveals both the tasteful muscularity of Mulligan's baritone playing and the subtly fiery flair of Baker's trumpet, each the more effective for being so tastefully concealed. The neat precision of their solo lines, rising naturally from Mulligan's airy, deceptively simple-sounding arrangements, still renders their group sound one of the most distinctive — and unequivocally enjoyable — in jazz.

## TOM BROWNE

*Another Shade of Browne* (Hip Hop Essence HIBD 8011)  
KNOWN as "Mr Jamaica Funk" for his 1980s dance-floor-friendly trumpet style, Tom Browne re-emerged a couple of years ago with *Mo' Jamaica Funk*. This album, though, emphasises his indebtedness to the more straightforward jazz recorded for the Blue Note label by such trumpet giants as Freddie Hubbard and Lee Morgan in the 1950s and 1960s.

While not the most fluent of soloists — he specialises in judiciously placed squirts and trills rather than in long-lined improvisations — Browne has nevertheless produced an infectiously peppy album thanks to the sterling rhythm-section work of relative veterans, bassist Ron Carter and drummer Idris Muhammad.

CHRIS PARKER

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# EDUCATION

John O'Leary reports on the problems facing staff, and two men who gave up teaching describe the pressures

## Why are our teachers leaving?

Thousands of teachers have been trying to come to terms with life outside the classroom as their former colleagues returned to school this week. Many had reached retirement age, but three quarters have put a premature end to a career they saw as a life-long vocation.

The image of teaching as a secure, even sedate, occupation with short working hours and long holidays is receding fast. The squeeze on state school budgets has accelerated the pace of early retirements, but the most striking change has been the rise in stress-related illness.

The condition makes inroads into every profession, but the figures for teaching — and for head teachers in particular — are extraordinary. More staff left the profession because of "ill-infirmity" than reached the age of retirement last year.

In 1979 fewer than 1,400 teachers retired early through ill-health. By 1995, the figure had reached almost 6,000, a quarter of all those leaving the profession, and would have been higher if the Teachers Pension Agency had not tightened up the interpretation of its rules. The agency rejected 10 per cent of applications, compared with the normal 3 per cent. The attrition rate is such that some private insurers are reluctant to accept teachers for "living cover" policies. The Teachers Superannuation Fund, already more than £1.5 billion in debt, is in more trouble year by year.

Most of those joining the stampede from the classroom cite stress as the underlying reason. Medical certificates may list more conventional illnesses, but the extra demands on today's teachers produce pressures that many cannot withstand. Stress may be a Nineties state of mind that would once not have been

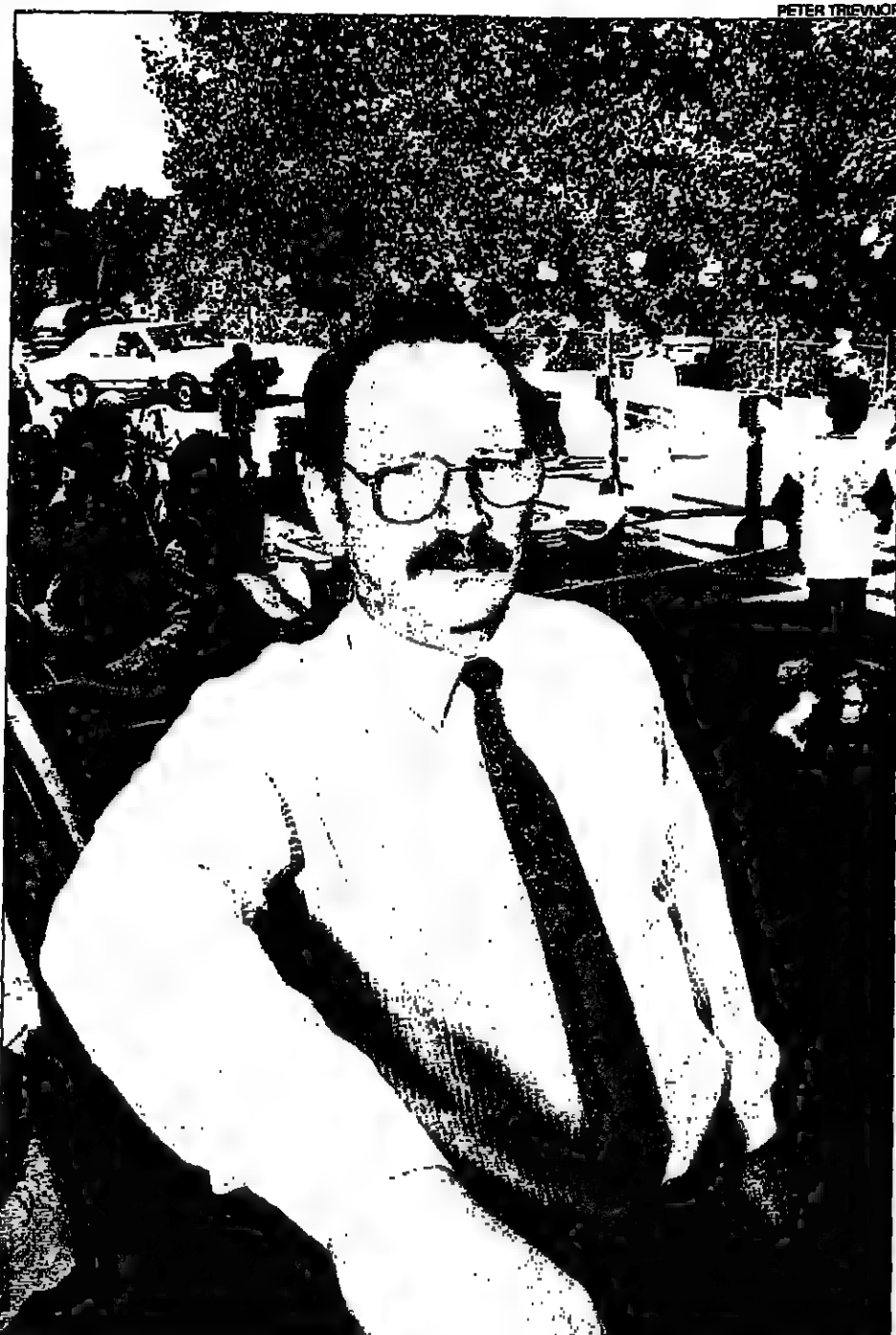
accepted as a career-threatening condition. But it is equally certain that teaching is not what it was when many of the victims joined the profession. Extra workload, worsening discipline problems, tension generated by inspections and heightened expectations by parents and senior staff are all raising the classroom temperature.

In a report on the subject, academics at Oxford Brookes University said that the strains of the job were causing heart attacks and strokes. "Panic attacks, sleeplessness, broken relationships, excessive drinking and smoking, loss of confidence and breakdowns are not reportable industrial illnesses," the survey said. "But they are as devastating to the teacher as broken arms, amputations and poisoning are to other workers."

Head teachers, weighed down by extra responsibilities since taking control of school budgets, prone to conflict with parents and governors, worried about league tables and inspection reports, are under even more pressure. Their deputies are becoming increasingly reluctant to apply for the top jobs.

In the teaching profession as a whole, more than 150,000 people have left prematurely in the past ten years, three times the number reaching retirement age. Applications for ill-health retirement have risen by almost a quarter in two years.

What is worse, the message seems to be affecting the people who should form the next generation of teachers. Though the starting salary is relatively attractive, applications for training are falling as the graduate employment market begins to recover. Young people are asking themselves whether it is worth joining a profession under pressure, and growing numbers are deciding that it is not.



Graham Went, Headmaster, Edinburgh Primary School, Walthamstow: someone had to go

### Pressure that led the head to quit

UNTIL Ofsted's inspectors arrived at my school, I had never considered giving up my headship. It was hard work and long hours, certainly challenging, but it was a job that I enjoyed.

Everything changed when the school was found to require "special measures" (Ofsted jargon for failure). The pressure, the workload and the staff demoralisation that ensued were amazing. I gave it a few months to see how parents and governors would react, and they were extremely supportive, but by the turn of the year I came to the conclusion that the school needed someone who didn't carry the baggage of the past.

People have said it was a courageous decision, but it merely seemed sensible if the school was to get out of special measures. The parents were confused because the report didn't match their experience of the school. But whatever I might think of the inspection system, the school has to go forward.

I was not criticised personally, but it is implicit when a school is put under special measures that the responsibility lies with the head teacher. It seems part of the hidden agenda that someone has to go.

I had intended to leave at Easter, but I agreed to stay on for another term so a permanent successor could be appointed. It meant 65-hour weeks with weekend working. Without the support of my wife and six children, it would have been difficult indeed. As it was, I didn't crack up, but that is not to say I could go on indefinitely without its having a damaging effect on my health. Now I want a break: I need time to consider what I want to do. It would be nice to have a job that you don't bring home, but I haven't ruled out a return to teaching or even headship at some time in the future.

In the short term, supply teaching might be good for me. After 20 years in the same school, as deputy and then head, there is a danger of tunnel vision. Another suggestion has been to train as an Ofsted inspector. But would it feel as though I was joining the enemy?

JOHN MILLER

## A nation forgetting how to walk

Susan Elkin on the dangers of raising a sedentary generation

Hardly a month goes by without the publication of another report telling us what we know — that schoolchildren are unhealthy and becoming more so all the time. For reasons that are many and various, they now eat so much "junk", it seems, that many of them are reaching the paradoxical position of being both malnourished and overweight.

Combine that with the fact that few children are encouraged — or even allowed — to walk or cycle anywhere and you have an ill-health time-bomb ticking away. By the time today's schoolchildren are in their forties, we shall be a very sickly nation — unless we can stop the rot.

Schools could do a lot more to promote sensible exercise. And I don't mean the flamboyant and noisy razzmatazz of aerobic exercise to thumping pop music or "working out" in expensive gymnasiums, either. No, I have something much simpler in mind.

Why aren't schools simply "selling" walking? Doctors say that it is the best possible exercise. Walking is steady and continuous, it helps with weight control, it is companionable and it costs nothing. In fact, it saves money and resources: the walker saves transport expenditure and is also, in a wider context, environmentally responsible, because everyone who walks, as opposed to getting into a powered vehicle, is helping to reduce fuel consumption.

Children used to walk almost everywhere. Now, fewer than 10 per cent arrive at school as unaccompanied pedestrians. And it isn't many more who go to school on foot even in the company of an adult. Witness the dangerous congestion caused by cars near school gates. Yet most British children live less than a mile from their schools.

The secondary school I attended was about half a mile up a steep hill. Some buses stopped at the bottom and it was tempting to hop on a second bus for the last lap. Woe be to us if our

headmistress saw us. As healthy young girls, we had, she told us sternly, to walk, freeing the buses for older people going further.

Many teachers' homes are still quite near their schools. They could set an example, and encourage parents to do the same. But, mostly, they don't. When I taught in a school about 20 minutes' walk across the town, I always walked — to the incredulous amusement of the pupils as they sailed past in their parents' cars. No wonder we are breeding an apparently legless generation.

Britain is riddled with ancient rights of way, even in towns. Considering how densely populated these areas are, it amazes me what a short distance from home or school most of us have to go to get onto a path. Why aren't schools using some of their PE or extracurricular time to take children out onto those paths?

Children would learn so much about the natural environment.

When I took a party of 25 urban schoolgirls on a five-mile foot-path walk, starting and finishing at school, every one of them was on terra incognita for much of the time. Yet at no point were we more than a mile or two from most of their homes. We named trees, spotted wildflowers, learnt a bit about map-reading and got a good afternoon's healthy exercise.

The other day, I met an Oxford Classics graduate who told me, shamefacedly, that having always lived in cities she cannot identify a primrose. At the other end of the scale, I recently asked a low-ability class to draw some daffodils to illustrate Wordsworth's poem. They couldn't. They hadn't a clue what a daffodil was.

While we condone the fashionable idea that exercise has to be wildly exciting, more and more of our children will continue to opt out. Munching their crisps and slurping sugary drinks as they slump before the television set, they are getting fatter in body but narrower in outlook by the minute.



## Too much work, too little praise — I've had enough



John Miller: a changed atmosphere

I HAD been thinking of giving up teaching for two or three years when my parents' illnesses and the fact that the school was seeking redundancies to cope with a budget cut triggered my decision.

Teaching is simply not the same job I came into 13 years ago. The pressure has increased enormously and there is no time to develop a relationship with the children or to bring a bit of individuality to the subject.

I taught French and German at Moorside High School, a large comprehensive in Stoke-on-Trent, where I have spent the past nine years. At 41, I had reached the top of the classroom teachers' pay scale and, as a single man, I have no complaints about the money — £21,000 a year. But I have

felt the stress of the job more and more in the past few years as there has been more emphasis on meeting targets and running the school as a business.

The atmosphere has changed. There never seems to be any praise; and there were always extra things that I should have been doing. In my own subject, for example, teaching methods are more and more laid down in a politically correct way. There is no fun. Lessons must be conducted in the language being taught and it is frowned upon if you lapse back into English to make sure that the children understand what you are saying.

The workload has certainly increased. When I first came into teaching, you would get 40 minutes or an hour's break at lunchtime when

people might have a game of cards in the staffroom. Now most teachers do not go to the staffroom; they are too busy preparing afternoon lessons or dealing with pupils.

On top of that, I was probably doing a weekly average of between ten and 12 hours' work at home. I keep one night a week free for the choir and operatic society to which I belong, but work was occupying more and more of my time.

Colleagues were very supportive because they know the pressures of the job. I do not know what the future will hold — I would like to use my languages in an office setting, but I will clean toilets if necessary. I don't expect to go back to teaching.

GRAHAM WENT

## Secrets of a comprehensive success

Malbank beat Haileybury and Stowe in A-level rankings even though it raised its pupil numbers. Bruce Kemble explains how

Displayed proudly on the wall of the headmaster's study is the school motto, with all its echoes of Margaret Thatcher's triumphant urgings during the Falklands crisis: "Gaudeamus" (Let us rejoice). The head, Allan Kettle, has much cause for rejoicing as he shows visitors a recent award from Oxford University which will be given annually to a sixth-former in recognition of the school's "outstanding record" in providing the university with first-class students.

He is also pleased with his achievement of raising the number of pupils from 850 to 1,216, an increase of nearly 50 per cent during his five years there. This startling proof of the school's popularity is illustrated by parents' putting their children's names down for entry at 11 when they are only two.

Yet this is not an ancient public school, or even a grammar school, but a state comprehensive where 7 per cent of children qualify for free school meals. It is Malbank School in Nantwich, Cheshire, which was the leading comprehensive in The Times A-level rankings. Its high position astonished John Rae, the veteran public school head, who asked on this page: "How does a comprehensive such as Malbank School in Cheshire, for example, so easily beat Haileybury and Stowe?" Nearly three quarters of Malbank's 149 candidates gained four passes and 12 won five or six A grades.

Mr Kettle, 45, says: "The number of youngsters getting five grade As has increased marginally and the average points score has increased significantly. But at the lower end, without any change in admissions policy and still entering every student for the examinations, we are now down to only one candidate who didn't get any A levels at all." He is particularly delighted that in the lower-ability range, pupils do not drop out.

Had the council waited, the school would be a grammar

they're clever kids who'd have done well anywhere," he says. "All the evidence shows that that is simply not the case."

Barbara Shaw, 46, whose sons Andrew and Alexander go there, agrees with him and recalls the days when Malbank's rivalry with nearby Brine Lees school, an 11-16 comprehensive school, was serious. "Seven years ago, people used to say, 'Does my child go to Brine Lees or Malbank?' Now there's no question. Malbank is a very happy school. The children are very disciplined, the teachers have expectations."

Lucy O'Grady, 18, is the daughter of a tax inspector and lives in Crewe. She got four A-level passes and is now off to read psychology at

Sheffield University. She remembered the time when she "worked off her knees" in her bedroom and says: "I knew I could do my GCSEs and I didn't want to end up in a checkout in Woolies."

Mrs Shaw's description of the school as "disciplined" is echoed by Mr Kettle's pride in the pupils' behaviour each Remembrance Sun-

day, when the whole school achieves a minute's silence, confounding those critics who say it is expecting too much of the modern child and that "20 seconds is all that can be hoped for."

He says: "We sing Abide with Me. We lower the flag. We lay the wreath. We do it with absolute confidence that it will be all right. It's the vicar

who gets frightened and says you can't have a minute's silence with 1,200 children."

It is the result of the absorption of the traditional values of the grammar school it used to be. The school went comprehensive in 1977, but if the Conservative council had waited a little over a year, Malbank would still be a grammar school. As Ernest Lighton, a 65-year-old governor and former schoolmaster, says: "Even though it's Malbank Comprehensive, for many it's still the grammar school it was."



Allan Kettle of Malbank School: "outstanding record" in providing Oxford with first-class students

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Further particulars may be obtained from the General Office, St Catherine's College, Oxford OX2 1UJ; fax (01865) 271788. The closing date for applications is 23 September 1996.

The College exists to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

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## POSTS

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The Council of Malvern Girls' College invites applications for the position of HEAD, to date from September 1997.

Applicants should possess the qualities of leadership, courage and academic experience required to guide the College into the 21st Century.

Those interested should write in confidence, within 14 days, enclosing a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees, to:

**Air Commodore B.W. Opie, F.I.P.D., F.I.Mgt.**  
The Clerk to the Governors,  
**MALVERN GIRLS' COLLEGE,**  
9 Avenue Road  
**MALVERN**  
Worcestershire WR14 3AR.

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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Further particulars, including details of how to apply, may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administrative), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (tel: 01865 280479/270003). The closing date is 7 October 1996.

The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

## POSTS

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The Secretary  
The Girl's Public Day School Trust  
26 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AN  
Closing date for applications  
Friday, 20th September 1996

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For further details of the post and the school please write to Mrs B. Sanghvi at Westwood High School, Sargood Road, Upper Norwood SE19 3UG.  
Telephone: 0181 653 1661/246

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GOLF: AMBITIOUS BRITON OVERCOMES LACK OF SLEEP TO PRODUCE EXCELLENT OPENING ROUND

# Travel-weary Davies comes up smiling

BY MEL WEBB

LAURA DAVIES produced yet another sub-par round as she continued her season of plenty in the first round of the European Open at Hanbury Manor yesterday, and if she did not do it after a totally sleepless night, it was so close as not to matter.

Davies, who finished the day four shots behind Corinne Dignan, of Australia, leader by one from Stephanie Dallongeville, and by two from Kristel Mourgue d'Algue, is one of the wonders of modern sport. She jets all over the world, stopping off only to play in golf tournaments, many of which she wins, then hops on the next aeroplane for the next destination, which might mean flying from the United States to England, or England to Japan, or Japan to the United States, and here we go again.

At 32, she is well into her second million in tournament earnings, and has better than a punter's chance of winning the order of merit this year on both sides of the Atlantic to follow Annika Sorenstam and become the second European to perform the feat in as many years. It might mean leaping on planes and shuttling from one side of the ocean to the other with as little thought as some people give to commuting from Surbiton to Waterloo. "So what?" she said. "You only live once."

She is in the middle of a 14-week unbroken spell which includes appearances in the United States, Europe, Japan and Korea, and, in two weeks' time, she will be the European team's linchpin as they try to wrest the Solheim Cup back from the old enemy.

By that time she will have played for nine consecutive weeks: Mickey Walker, the Solheim Cup captain, says she knows nobody else who could commit herself to such a

punishing schedule and come up smiling. Davies regularly performs feats that would be regarded as near-miraculous in others: to her, they form just another day in the office. Example: she birdied six of the last seven holes to get into a play-off in the State Farm Rail Classic in Springfield, Illinois, on Monday, and was eventually beaten on the third extra hole by Michelle McGann.

She suffered a sleepless flight, arrived in leafy Hertfordshire on Wednesday evening, and got her first sight of the immaculate acres of Hanbury Manor when she peered, after 2½ hours' sleep, out of her bedroom window yesterday morning. "I was watching Andre Agassi in the US Open tennis at about half past three this morning," she said. "I just couldn't sleep." It would have left just about anybody else wild-eyed and wrecked. Davies just went out and shot 70.

She needs at least second place in this £100,000 tournament to overtake the absent Helen Alfredsson in the European money-list, and leads Karrie Webb, of Australia, by \$110,000 (about £72,000) in the United States order of merit. She has won four times in the United States this year and once each in Japan and Europe; she has banked \$800,000 already and is on track to become the first woman to win more than £1 million in a season.

She says she would love to top both orders of merit and would take the US if she could win only one. "I realise I might win both, or one, or end up with nothing at all," she said. "Either way it's been a hell of a crack." All those miles, all those flights, and it's all been a bit of a giggle. Mickey Walker is right — Laura Davies is unique, and not only because of the way she hits a golf ball.



Davies splashes out of a bunker as she strides towards another splendid round yesterday

## Mystic Michael picks Broadhurst's number

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN CRANS-SUR-SIERRE

PAUL BROADHURST found it slightly alarming when Michael Campbell greeted him yesterday morning with the words, "I had a dream about you last night" — and was quick to elaborate. "I dreamt that you shot 64 or 65 today," the New Zealand Maori, with no known history as a soothsayer, explained.

"That's all right, then," Broadhurst, a man with a reputation for low scoring, said, and off he went to return a first round of 64, seven under par, to lead the Canon European Masters by one stroke from the quintet of Colin

Montgomerie, Eduardo Romero, Malcolm Mackenzie, Sam Torrance and Lee Westwood.

Broadhurst, a Ryder Cup player at Kiawah in 1991 and keen to make the team again, intended seeking out Campbell for his second-round prediction but warned, "If he says I'll have 74, I'm not going out."

The midlander has been working with Bill Ferguson, coach to Ian Woosnam and Montgomerie, first and second on the European money-list, on achieving a squarer position at impact, and the changes still feel awkward.

"I hit one or two strange shots," Broadhurst, who had previous rounds of 62, 64 and 65 to his credit this season, confessed.

He started with a pull hook into the trees off the 10th tee but chipped in for a birdie three and birdied the next two holes and the long 15th as well. At the 16th, newly reduced from a driveable par four to a fiendish 235-yard par three by the course designer — one Severiano Ballesteros — Broadhurst missed the green with a three-iron but saved his par. Ballesteros, who had a 71, dropped a shot there and would have received little sympathy.

Out in 31, four under par, Broadhurst came home in 33, with birdies at three of his last four holes, including the 618-yard 9th, where his three-wood second shot ended up on the 10th fairway. A

sand-wedge over the trees and a treacherous downhill putt of 12 feet saw the Campbell dream become a reality.

Last week, Broadhurst was one of those taken to task for remarks about the greens at Collingtree, but all criticism was entirely justified, as the following letter from Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour, confirms. It was dated September 2 and will go to every player who competed in the One Two One British Masters.

"Please receive my personal unreserved apology for the unacceptable presentation of the Collingtree ETC (European Tour Course) greens last week. On behalf of all staff involved, we share your

justifiable frustration, concern and sheer embarrassment at a situation which saw us reach the lowest ebb in my experience.

"May I assure you a detailed investigation is under way in an endeavour to find out what caused the dramatic disintegration of the greens in the past three weeks. I intend to have a copy of the investigation forwarded to you as soon as practicable.

In the meantime, in a sad reflection of this unfortunate experience, I have instructed the accounts department to credit your Masters entry fee against a future tournament of your choice."

Perhaps the spectators should be made a similar offer.

### FOR THE RECORD

#### BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 6 Kansas City 0; Chicago 11 Detroit 6; Cleveland 7 Milwaukee 0; Minnesota 7 Texas 8; Baltimore 4 California 2; New York 10 Oakland 3; Boston 7 Seattle 6.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal 6 San Francisco 0; Pittsburgh 6 Colorado 2; Cincinnati 12 Atlanta 6; San Diego 2 Philadelphia 1; New York 3 Los Angeles 2 (12 inn.); St Louis 6 Houston 4.

#### BOWLS

LEAMINGTON SPA: Double Century women's championship. Triples final: Oxford City and County (A) Mansfield, G. Winslow, J. Moyse and J. Leach (A) 11-10; Mansfield, G. Winslow, J. Moyse and J. Leach (A) 11-10; Mansfield, G. Winslow, J. Moyse and J. Leach (A) 11-10.

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#### CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three): Leicestershire 213 (R. K. Pearson 64, R. P. Dunn 58) and 300 (R. K. Pearson 74, D. J. Smith 53) vs. Nottingham 100 (R. K. Pearson 74, D. J. Smith 53) and 250 (R. K. Pearson 74, D. J. Smith 53).

#### FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMMUNITARIAN: First division: Arsenal 3 Southampton 0; Luton Town 1 Wrexham 0; Watford 1 Notts County 0.

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## Rugby should beware revolt by supporters

Gerald Davies is happy to eavesdrop on some reminiscences on the good old days

These are early days, but the signs are so solemnly portentous. While the interminable warmongering continues unabated in out-of-town hotels, who, amid these self-interested parties in rugby's upper echelons, spare a thought for those who follow their sport? Their loyalty is severely under strain.

Returning from Sunbury to Waterloo last Saturday after London Irish's first match of the season, against Bristol, two Irishmen who were unacquainted with each other until that moment, broke into conversation. The one sported the unmistakable green jersey of the exiles, the other the weekend garb of the senior City gent, grey flannels and sports jacket.

Eavesdropping is not a polite habit. But once the first siren words insinuate themselves delicately on the ear, this ungentlemanly activity does become irresistible.

Regret was the mutual note they struck. Not anger or discontent, but rather of dreams blighted, of having somehow been let down. That it was inevitable for rugby union to become a professional game and players be paid were things that they both seemed to accept. But this was not the point.

Rather, it was the effect this was going to have on them and their pockets. The ticket, for which they had paid £7 last season, was now £10, an increase they had hoped would have been achieved gradually and not in one leap. And the match programme was a pound more than last year. The fare is dearer elsewhere, with no commensurate improvement in facilities.

"Rugby was such a social game," said one. And they reminisced about Richmond, London Welsh and the rest, and all the good times they had had.

"To be sure, the Welsh gave a great night, the best, if they won. But no choral song until late if they lost. For us, it did not matter so much if we won or lost. It was a grand time we Irish were after, at their place or ours."

"I fear," replied the other, "it is not going to be like that for much longer."

They were going home early, not so much because their team had lost, but rather because they felt they had paid enough for their Saturday's rugby.

Another example. My pal, whose knowledge of rugby runs deep and his devotion to Cardiff deeper still, is for once in a long life of fealty to the game and the

club, questioning the continuation of his good faith.

Admittedly, he mourned the passing of the old amateur ways, cherishing, as he had always done, rugby's capacity within Wales to represent and to compose a community, a fellowship of diverse interest. But if professionalism was to come, then he would embrace it, the love of the game rising above any social or cultural theory.

It is the other aspects that are questioning his loyalty. Doubt, once out of the question, is creeping in insidiously. His club membership fee includes only the Welsh League matches. He will have to pay extra for each of the Anglo-Welsh fixtures, and the European matches to follow. But he understands that, since there is uncertainty over these fixtures, the club might not have wished to commit its members to something they might not have been able to deliver. At any rate, to watch a game every Saturday may get to be an expensive pastime. His habit may change.

But, like the Irishmen, he is exasperated with the shenanigans of those who administer rugby and he fulminates despairingly: "What are they doing to my game?"

This is where rugby's dilemma now lies. The present dispute, wherever the fault lies, is disheartening the faithful. Disillusioned by warring factions, the constant bickering fuelling headlines of disarray, provokes the spectator to believe that he no longer wishes to follow a game made to look increasingly silly. Rugby is tarnished. The "feel-good" factor is fast fading.

The enterprise is sick. Enticed by bagfuls of spotlights, hark what discord has followed. The rugby unions might care to look overseas for a lesson or two. Sports have learnt to their cost. A couple of years ago, baseball players in the United States went on strike over wages. Their followers went elsewhere to seek their sporting fix. Baseball is still suffering.

In Australia, the still unresolved dispute between the Super League and the Australian Rugby League has forced the game's followers to break ranks. This schism has been to the benefit of Australian Rules and, to a lesser extent, rugby union.

So a ramble to the hills or an acquaintance with the mysteries of the do-it-yourself superstore suddenly appear a preferable alternative to the cat-and-dog life of rugby union.

**SHEEHAN on CHESS**

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

As you may know, a 3-3 break is only about 36 per cent, so if you have a choice between playing for that or a finesse, the finesse is a better chance. But frequently, if you arrange the play in the right sequence, you may be able to combine the chances. This refresher is an example.

**Dealer South East-West vulnerable**

♠ A643  
♥ J3  
♦ A983  
♣ K43

♠ 1097  
♥ 9782  
♦ 9854  
♣ J6

N  
W  
E  
S

♠ K10884  
♥ K10  
♦ 108752

**Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: ten of spades**

Six Spades by South is an excellent contract, and one that would make easily on a red-lead hit. However, on a spade lead it is problematical. Say you draw trumps in three rounds. Now what? If you play a diamond to the queen, what do you do if East wins and returns a heart?

It is right to rise with the ace, because that succeeds not only with a 3-3 diamond split, but when the same hand holds the king of hearts and diamond length, a much better than 50 per cent chance. Here it fails, but you have misplayed the hand earlier. The correct line is to draw trumps, eliminate the clubs, lead a diamond to the ace and a second diamond to the jack.

If that holds, you follow with a third round of diamonds. This line makes the contract whenever the king of diamonds is doubleton, (if West has the doubleton king he will have to lead into your heart tenace or give a ruff-and-discard). And, most important, you find out whether diamonds are splitting before deciding on the heart finesse.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

**WORD-WATCHING**

By Philip Howard

TAPPIE  
a. Drunk  
b. Underside of a stair  
c. A topknot

UNCT  
a. A UN court  
b. To appoint  
c. Umbel of a daisy

Answers on page 42

**KEENE on CHESS**

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Fox trot international**

During the latter part of August, chess enthusiasts in London were treated to the possibility of seeing some of the former greats of chess, including the former world champion, Vasily Smyslov and Boris Spassky, in action against a team of the world's elite female players. The women's side included the former women's world champion, Xie Jun of China.

Two of the most successful players were Lajos Portisch, for the men's side, and Ketevar Arakhamia, for the women's. In the following clash between the two Portisch engineered a powerful central breakthrough, which led to a conflagration spreading towards the pawns of the black king.

**White: Lajos Portisch Black: Ketevar Arakhamia Fox trot international, London, August 1996**

King's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6  
2 c4 g6  
3 Bc3 Bg7  
4 e3 d6  
5 f3 0-0  
6 Bg5 h6  
7 Bc2 e5  
8 d5 exd5  
9 Qd2 exd5  
10 cxd5 h5  
11 Ng2 Nd7  
12 Nf4 Ne5  
13 Be2 a6  
14 a4 b6  
15 0-0 Rb8  
16 Nc3 c4  
17 Rb1 Nd7  
18 Nh3 Nc5

**Diagram of final position**

8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1

a b c d e f g h

**Internet magazine**

Chess is booming on the Internet, and it is now possible to arrange a game around the world at more or less any time of the day or night. Irish international Tim Harding is producing a magazine, Chess Alive!, which gives detailed information about such possibilities. A free copy can be obtained from Chess Mail Ltd, 26 Conlamb Park, Dublin 16, Ireland or e-mail: tharding@menet.ie

**WINNING MOVE**

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Pops — Herland, Bucharest 1937. White appears to have terrible problems as the black rooks have invaded his position. How did he turn the tables and force a quick win?

Solution on page 42



## RACING: HUNTINGDON SETS SIGHTS ON CUP CAMPAIGN FOR QUEEN'S FLUENT YORK WINNER

## Arabian Story's stamina put to the test

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen can begin to dream of possible cup glory next year after Arabian Story carried her silks to an easy success in the Sun Life of Canada Garrowby Rated Stakes at York yesterday.

The rapidly improving three-year-old, trained by Lord Huntingdon, turned the valuable 1½-mile handicap into a procession after bursting clear of his ten rivals three furlongs from home. Eased inside the final 75 yards by David Harrison, he won snugly by 2½ lengths in a fast time.

## RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ALPHABET  
(4.10 Kempton Park)Next best: Shuwalikh  
(2.35 Kempton Park)

Thunderer goes Ochros (16-1) among four York winners yesterday

"I tracked the leaders and for a stride or two had to sit and wait for a gap. When it came by the rail, the horse took off in a couple of strides and won as he liked," Harrison said.

The victory, which came only ten days after Arabian Story had romped home in the "Gentleman's Derby" at Epsom by 11 lengths, had special significance for both his owner and trainer because of links with Garrowby, home of Lord Halifax.

Lord Huntingdon said: "I am particularly pleased and I am sure the Queen will be delighted to have won this race because Charles Halifax married my aunt and the Queen has stayed at Garrowby."



Tycoon Todd, ridden by Peslier, gains plenty of admirers after his impressive winning first appearance from 15 rivals at York yesterday

owby. The Garrowby Stud also bred Shirley Heights, who stands at Sandringham."

Although Arabian Story is entered in the Tote Festival Handicap at Ascot, it will be no surprise to see him tackle a longer trip to test his staying powers. His breeding suggests two miles will suit next year.

"I would be keen to see this year whether he gets a little bit further. It is my feeling he would," Lord Huntingdon added.

Working out how far horses

will stay can make fools of the straight and, although Even Top did not quicken quite as readily as the jockey expected, he still won comfortably by three lengths from Tamhid in a race record time and will now be aimed at the Champion Stakes.

"I am just pleased to get him back to his right trip. Everybody said he would stay given his breeding but Philip Robinson always believed he had too much speed for 1½ miles. He has won twice at Newmarket,

which suits him because he's a galloper," Tompkins said.

York has been a fine hunting ground during the past month for David Loder and he added to wins with About Zouz, Indiscreet and Bianca Nera (who has been supplemented for the Moylagh Stakes on Sunday) with an eye-catching debut by Tycoon Todd in the opening Weatherbys/Hiscox Household Insurance Maiden Stakes.

Despite drifting in the betting, the newcomer swept clear inside the final quarter mile in the capable hands of Olivier Peslier to provide Edward St George's Lucayan Stud with another success.

St George rates the two-year-old, bought by Charlie Gordon-Watson for \$55,000, alongside Bahamian Bounty, winner of the group one Prix Morny. Tycoon Todd is entered in the Dewhurst Stakes and Racing Post Trophy but is likely to have only one more race this year.

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## SEDFIELD

THUNDERER  
2.05 George Ashford, 2.55 Royal Circus, 3.25 Shalimar, 4.00 Val De Rame, 4.30 Forgotten Empress, 5.05 Tinklers Folly.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.25 WINTER RACE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (22.915; 3m 3f) (7 runners)

1-32-10 GEORGE ASHFORD 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
2-31-10 ROYAL CIRCUS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
3-25-10 SHALIMAR 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
4-00-10 VAL DE RAME 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
5-05-10 FORGOTTEN EMPRESS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
6-10-10 TINKLERS FOLLY 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10

2-1 Chesham, 5-2 George Ashford, 3-1 The Shalimar, 6-1 Days, 10-1 Doncaster, 20-1 M. B. 11-10-10

2.55 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP HURDLE (22.355; 2m 5f 11yds) (7 runners)

1-32-10 WILKINSON 10 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
2-31-10 ROYAL CIRCUS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
3-25-10 SHALIMAR 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
4-00-10 VAL DE RAME 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
5-05-10 FORGOTTEN EMPRESS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
6-10-10 TINKLERS FOLLY 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10

2-1 Chesham, 5-2 George Ashford, 3-1 The Shalimar, 6-1 Days, 10-1 Doncaster, 20-1 M. B. 11-10-10

3.25 RAISBY QUARRIES HANDICAP CHASE (23.457; 3m 3f) (6 runners)

1-32-10 GEORGE ASHFORD 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
2-31-10 ROYAL CIRCUS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
3-25-10 SHALIMAR 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
4-00-10 VAL DE RAME 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
5-05-10 FORGOTTEN EMPRESS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
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COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P. Brown, 5 winners from 8 runners, 62.5%; M. B. 11-10-10, 3 winners from 4 runners, 75%; M. B. 11-10-10, 2 winners from 3 runners, 66.7%; M. B. 11-10-10, 1 winner from 2 runners, 50%; M. B. 11-10-10, 0 winners from 1 runner, 0%.

JOCKEYS: J. Brown, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%; P. Brown, 5 winners from 10 rides, 50%; M. B. 11-10-10, 2 winners from 4 rides, 50%; M. B. 11-10-10, 1 winner from 2 rides, 50%; M. B. 11-10-10, 0 winners from 1 ride, 0%.

4.00 SAN BERRY NOVICES CHASE (22.303; 2m 5f) (9 runners)

1-32-10 GEORGE ASHFORD 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
2-31-10 ROYAL CIRCUS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
3-25-10 SHALIMAR 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
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4.30 STANLEY RACING NOVICES HURDLE (22.303; 2m 5f 11yds) (12 runners)

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2-31-10 ROYAL CIRCUS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
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5.05 SEDFIELD MAIDEN HURDLE (22.455; 2m 11f) (16 runners)

1-32-10 GEORGE ASHFORD 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
2-31-10 ROYAL CIRCUS 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
3-25-10 SHALIMAR 11 (10.5) M. B. 11-10-10  
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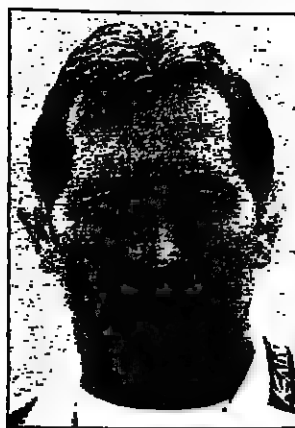
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4



# Centurion Gooch overtakes a fellow old master



Gooch: dismissive

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**EDGBASTON** (third day of four): Warwickshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 371 runs to beat Essex

EDGBASTON has never been a lucky ground for Graham Gooch. He was twice out for nought here on his Test debut and, after 23 seasons of trying, he had made only one century, 19 years ago. He was unlucky yesterday, too, in being run out at the non-striker's end while backing up, but by then he had completed the 17th century of his career and given Essex a winning position against Warwickshire.

This match has been transformed by sunshine. For five sessions, under low cloud, looked most unlikely to run a full course as batsmen rapidly lost either their wicket or their dignity to exaggerated movement. Then the skies cleared and the bowlers' brows began to furrow. By bedtime yesterday, with Essex on 401 for three, Warwickshire were waiting for the merciful release of a declaration.

It came with an hour of the day remaining and left the outgoing champions an hour and a half to make 436. A tall order, of course, but entirely beyond them. A sprightly opening raised 36 in six overs but three wickets then fell within six balls. Essex should win

with time to spare now, maintaining their challenge for Warwickshire's title.

To say that Gooch held the key to the game is to repeat a cricketer's cliché. Down the decades, there have been few more influential English players. Now, his authoritative 147, the seventh century of a season which he began convinced it would be his last, deflated a Warwickshire side that had competed spiritedly for two days.

Already this summer, Gooch had overtaken Tom Graveney and Denis Compton to move into the top ten prolific centurions. Yesterday, he went past W. G. Grace. Gooch's goal suggests he sometimes feels as old as W. G. looked, but he has, in

fact, played 526 fewer innings, which puts his record into awesome perspective.

Resuming on 58, he reached three figures with negligible fuss and one memorable stroke. Munton, for whom this has been a chastening game, dropped short and Gooch, in position without discernible foot movement, dubbed the ball contemptuously over mid-wicket for six. He received the applause for his century perfunctorily, routinely called for fresh gloves and then played a sequence of dismissive shots against Neil Smith.

There seemed no way Warwickshire could dismiss him until a straight drive from Paul Prichard was deflected into the bowler's

stumps by Brown. Gooch marched off, his job done and a blemish on his career record removed. Until yesterday, he had managed only 596 runs against Warwickshire out of a career total of almost 44,000.

Gooch had shared stands of 89 with Hussain and Illi with Prichard, his successor as captain. In his stead, Prichard proceeded to a century of his own. His first of what may yet be a season of high personal fulfilment. As the bowling became wayward and the fielding desultory, Warwickshire's cricket adopted a fatalism that they avoided in better times. Since Pollock went home, their attack has lacked an edge but, if they sought hope for the future, it was out there with them yesterday,

as Allan Donald, who will be back in the side next year, spent a session as fielding substitute.

Ronnie Irani added 139 with Prichard and looked destined to make the day's third century when Prichard declared. In truth, he had delayed longer than was necessary, though no longer than was psychologically desirable to examine Warwickshire's resolution fully.

Briefly, it seemed strong, but Neil Williams intervened crucially. Moles was taken at short leg and Wasim Khan suffered the experience of many a first-innings century by falling for nought, leg-before second ball. Knight then played no stroke to Such's arm ball and Warwickshire were in steep decline.

## Leicestershire held up by Tolley as vital win beckons

By SIMON WILDE

**TRENT BRIDGE** (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 74 runs ahead of Leicestershire

A DRAMATIC collapse in the final session of the day by Nottinghamshire has left Leicestershire in sight of a victory that would put them top of the Britannia Assurance county championship table this morning.

If Derbyshire subsequently win at Taunton, they will slip back to second place, but if not, Leicestershire's destiny will fall into their own hands. Maximum points from their remaining fixtures, against Durham at Chester-le-Street and Middlesex at Grace Road, would make them champions for only the second time.

When tea was taken, Leicestershire appeared to face a long haul, stretching well into today. Nottinghamshire were 89 for two, still 26 in arrears, on a pitch offering only a little help to the spin bowlers. Robinson had dug himself in for his umpteenth rearguard action at Trent Bridge.

Then, in the span of one disastrous hour — not the first they have had recently — Nottinghamshire lost six wickets in moving only seven runs in front, and such was the rattle of wickets that a three-day defeat looked a probability rather than a possibility, before spirited batting by Tolley, for the second time in the match, not only stopped the rot but saw 67 runs added

in positive fashion in the final hour as Bates and Bowen provided gallant support.

Nothing the tail does, though, can disguise the woeful lack of application among Nottinghamshire's top-order batsmen. Robinson was exonerated yesterday but neither he nor any of the others playing here has scored a championship century in the six defeats the club has suffered in its previous seven matches. Robinson was desperately unlucky to be dis-

missed just after reaching his half-century. He "lost" a ball from Millns over the top of the sightscreen at the Radcliffe Road end and was leg-before to a ball he did not attempt to play. That said, he enjoyed several close calls, much to Leicestershire's growing frustration. He was almost caught in the slips off Parsons on two and was dropped by Nixon off Simmons on 29.

Millns quickly followed up with the wicket of Evans, whose top-edge was smartly

held by Maddy running back from short leg, and when Millns was rested, Simmons promptly dispatched Bates in his first over. But it was the decision of Whitaker, the Leicestershire captain, to turn to spin that put the skids under the home side.

Pierson opened up at the Pavilion end shortly before tea and in his third over after the interval removed Johnson, caught at forward short leg pushing forward. Two overs later, he had Downman taken at first slip and at 108 for four everything seemed to depend on Robinson. However, in the following over he, too, was gone. Pierson later took a third wicket when he dismissed Maddy close to the wicket.

Nottinghamshire had looked ready for a long fight when Archer was in partnership with Robinson but he was bowled by a terrific out-swinger from Simmons, whose tally of championship wickets this season stands at an impressive 48. They came together when Millns, in his second over, had again removed the struggling Pollard.

Leicestershire had stretched their overnight advantage from 17 to 115, a size of lead that looked unlikely when Tolley removed Whitaker and Millns in the day's seventh over. But Leicestershire's resourcefulness is at the heart of their success and Parsons came up with a belligerent half-century to give them just the fillip needed.



Pollard loses his middle stump as Millns makes a breakthrough at Trent Bridge

## Lee checks Derbyshire's advance towards title

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

**TAUNTON** (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 281 runs ahead of Somerset

IN THE dying days of the season, with autumn casting its shadows, Shane Lee scored a hundred spring-like in its joy. Somerset's cricket in this match has been wet, which made his innings all the more resounding. It was glorious batting and it underlined just

what riches Australia have among their younger generation.

Lee came to Taunton as a bowler who could bat, whereas he is really a batsman who bowls serviceable medium pace, if not quite as cannily as Steve Waugh, his New South Wales team-mate. Waugh, who played two summers for Somerset not so long ago, was their first choice as overseas player and turned down a substantial offer to return to Taunton as captain. Lee, given an opportunity in his stead,

has taken it with both hands.

Like most Australians, he looks the part. He stands still at the crease, picks the bat up cleanly and plays his strokes in a satisfyingly orthodox manner. He hit the ball vigorously yesterday from the moment he swivelled into a fully-mounted hook and sent Malcolm out of the ground.

Lee's 110, his fourth hundred of the season, occupied only 138 balls and included 16 fours as well as that six. The quality of his cover-driving,

signalled early on with successive boundaries off Harris, was unsurpassable. Well as Barnett played later in making the 49th hundred of his career, Lee's gorgeous innings took the palm.

He made it against an attack deprived of Cork, who nursed a hamstring strain at slip and later left the field, though he may be fit to bowl today. Adams also went off, to be replaced by Les Sillman, the Derbyshire coach, as Somerset eventually conceded a lead of 60.

Lee offered a chance on 77 when he hooked Malcolm to fine leg, where Harris put the ball down. That was the only blemish on another performance of skill and character by the young seamer, who bowled well, and pretty fast. He took four for 95, decent figures on this pitch, and is a certainty for the A tour to Australia; at least, he should be.

Derbyshire wasted no time in improving their lead. Barnett took 14 from Caddick's first over and has so

far added 142 with Jones. Barnett's hundred 100 came from 152 balls and he was dropped immediately at fine leg, prompting some exceptional pointing from Caddick, who wears a long face even when all is right with the world.

Jones has to do his sums this morning, and then hope that Somerset play ball. In order to win, Derbyshire must be prepared to lose, particularly as Essex, Leicestershire and Surrey look like winning. It is worth a gamble, surely.

## Hollioake excels as he performs leading role

By JACK BAILEY

**THE OVAL** (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with four wickets in hand, need 286 runs to beat Surrey

THE Surrey captain, Alec Stewart, spent the day by his wife's hospital bed. They are expecting their second child. It is to be hoped that all goes as well as matters did for Surrey in Stewart's absence. Indeed, so handsomely did the captaincy of Adam Hollioake (who was celebrating his 25th birthday yesterday), and the efforts of the team under him, serve Surrey, that only the left-overs remain for today.

Competently as Surrey performed in setting Northamptonshire an unlikely 459 to win and then shooting out six of the visitors for 173, it was not the stoutest of opposition that they encountered. First, Northamptonshire allowed Surrey to recover from 178 for six, the last three wickets adding 120, with Hollioake falling only two runs short of a feat he accomplished in Surrey's first match of the season — two centuries in the match. Then Northamptonshire were superceded after a reasonable start by a spell from Lewis that yielded three wickets for two runs in ten balls.

Northamptonshire lived to

fight another day, but only just. Even the gallant Ripley can hardly be expected to prove more than nuisance value in Surrey's onward march in the quest for the championship.

Most impressive of all has been Hollioake's batting and the all-round skills of Julian. Northamptonshire had done pretty well to prise out four more of Surrey's top batsmen while only 46 were added first yesterday, but then came Hollioake's 98 from 127 balls. It was a superb innings and nothing became him like the way he put the interest of his side before his second century, continuing to go for quick runs throughout the 90s.

He was ably assisted by Lewis, Kersey, the nightwatchman, and Julian, but Hollioake's was a virtuoso innings with which Northamptonshire had nothing to compare. Montgomery was adhesive; Loye, once he found his bearings, played some cracking shots, but the youngsters, Swann and Sales both met good balls early on. Sales falling during a deadly spell by Lewis that also accounted for Loye and Curran. Bookings for lunch tomorrow are as rare as hens' teeth.

## Maynard provides a performance to relish

By IVO TENNANT

**SOUTHAMPTON** (third day of four): Glamorgan, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 330 runs ahead of Hampshire

WHEN Matthew Maynard bats as he did yesterday, it is best to relish him rather than ponder an unfulfilled talent. His 69 runs off 44 balls, which included five sixes and seven fours, was the pick of several decent innings. The square at Southampton remains nothing if not ideally suited to off.

Off successive balls from Botham, spread across two overs, Maynard struck 4, 4, 4, 4 and a 6 into the pavilion, each one an authentic and attractive shot. Mascarenhas, who took six wickets in Glamorgan's first innings, has three more in their second, went for 6, 4, 6.

Not content with this, the Glamorgan captain drove Maru out of the ground twice in succession, the second of these effortlessly-timed shots executed with one hand off the bat in the follow-through. He did not face another ball. Cooley drove to extra cover and continued running in pursuit of a single despite being sent back. Maynard, unselfishly and unnecessarily, gave up his wicket.

Gilson, whose disappointing career with Glamorgan comes to an end this month, struck several blows with as much force as timing in the final session, reaching a half-century off 35 balls. Maynard has an additional 49 runs to play with as a result of Hampshire's declaring in arrears soon after lunch. He will probably not bat on his morning, leaving them 331 to win.

As to Hampshire's batting, Laney was out without addition to his overnight 102, nicely held by Morris at first slip. Smith made a half-century with eight fours and considerable ease, but the fact that he reached 1,000 runs for the season during this innings says something about his struggles of late. He struck eight fours in this innings.

Maru, the nightwatchman, gained his first half-century of the season. If this was not the most attractive innings of the day, it was probably the most worthy. There was time for Kendall to show why he is regarded highly in these parts, and on this flat pitch he will have every chance to excel again today. Should Maynard close Glamorgan's innings first thing this morning, his declaration will not lack generosity.

## Sussex hit low point in summer of strife

By PAT GIBSON

**WORCESTER** (third day of four): Worcestershire (24pts) beat Sussex (-9) by an innings and 14 runs

THE end of the season cannot come quickly enough as far as Sussex are concerned, judging by the way they plummeted to their fourth successive championship defeat on a blameless pitch at New Road yesterday. When they were not batting like spineless marionettes, they were running between the wickets like headless chickens. Only a painstaking 36 not out from Greenfield and a blistering assault by Law, who struck 75 off 45 balls when the game was as good as lost, prolonged the proceedings into the third afternoon after they had lost their first eight wickets for 45 in 17 overs.

Sussex have had a traumatic time lately, what with the Giddins episode, the talk of Salisbury wanting to move to another county and the injuries that have cost them the services of Jarvis and Lewry, but none of those factors could excuse such a puerile batting performance.

They had resumed on 21 without loss and the immediate task of scoring a further 173 to avoid an innings defeat was far from impossible against a Worcestershire side

whose slender bowling resources had been further depleted when Rawnsley, the young left-arm spinner, was caught up in the aftermath of an accident on the M5 and failed to get to the ground on time.

All the fight seemed to drain out of him, however, once Lampitt claimed both Lenham and Athey leg-before, and Ellis clung to a superb catch, low to his left on the long-leg boundary, to dismiss Wells off Sherriff.

The Newell brothers were run out in successive overs, Keith by a smart piece of fielding by Moody, Mark in a mix-up with Greenfield that left him stranded by Leatherdale's throw from point. It was a rotten way for him to bag a pair on his first-class debut, especially as there was some suspicion that Rhodes had flattened the stumps without the ball in his glove.

Sherriff, bowling as well as he has done since joining Worcestershire from Leicestershire, took the next three wickets in three overs, and then, after the belligerent Law had made his 75 out of 107 in 14 overs, returned to pick up the last two and finish with championship-best figures of six for 99.

### YES, YESTERDAY'S CRICKET RESULTS

#### Britannia Assurance county championship

##### Hampshire v Glamorgan

**SOUTHAMPTON** (third day of four): Glamorgan, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 330 runs ahead of Hampshire

**GLAMORGAN:** First Innings 401 (S P James 103, H Morris 80, R D B Croft 87, A D Shaw 53; D A Mascarenhas 6 for 86)

**Second Innings**  
S P James c sub b Mascarenhas 34  
H Morris c sub b Mascarenhas 35  
A Dale b Botham 11  
M P Maynard run out 89  
P A Cooley c sub b Mascarenhas 41  
I A D Shaw c Renshaw b Maru 11  
D D Gibson not out 82  
R D B Croft not out 23  
Extras (lb 3, w 2) 5  
Total (8 wickets) 281

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-82, 2-85, 3-108, 4-148, 5-171, 6-282

**BOWLING:** Mascarenhas 16-2-82-5, Renshaw 9-1-46-0, Thurlfield 7-1-20-0, Botham 6-2-33-1, Maru 12-1-71-1, White 9-1-57-0, Laney 3-0-0-0

**HAMPSHIRE:** First Innings 70  
G W White c Weston b Croft 70  
J S Lacey c Morris b Watson 102  
M Kosch c Morris b Croft 12  
R J Maru not out 56  
\*R A Smith c Maynard b Croft 54  
W S Kendall not out 43  
Extras (lb 5, lb 1, w 1, nb 2) 16  
Total (4 wickets, 101.1 overs) 282

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-153, 2-178, 3-183, 4-278

**BOWLING:** Weston 14-0-60-1, Gibson 16-3-75-0, Parkin 17-4-38-0, Croft 31-11-81-2, Cooley 20-4-88-0, Dale 4-1-1-0

**Umpires:** G I Burgess and D J Constant

##### Leicestershire v Middlesex

**OLD TRAFFORD** (third day of four): Middlesex (20pts) beat Leicestershire (0) by 23 runs

**MIDDLESEX:** First Innings 180 (M Watkinson 5 for 16, P J Martin 4 for 31)

**Second Innings** 231 (K R Brown 83, M W Gatling 50, M Watkinson 4 for 104)

**LEICESTERSHIRE:** First Innings 282 (S P Titchard 67, P C R Tufnell 6 for 74)

**Second Innings**  
S P Titchard c Brown b Tufnell 13  
S P Titchard c Brown b Tufnell 13  
J P Crawley c Rampton b Tufnell 0  
M A Atkinson c sub b Tufnell 42  
G D Lloyd b Johnson 42  
S Ewory c Rampton b Johnson 1  
R J Green c Tufnell 2  
P J Martin c Ptoley b Tufnell 2  
N J Haynes c Carr b Tufnell 10  
G Keedy not out 2  
Extras (lb 3, w 2) 5  
Total 108

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-1, 2-2, 3-2, 4-13, 5-42, 6-67, 7-72, 8-103

**BOWLING:** Johnson 15-3-37-3, Tufnell 20-1-44-7, Fraser 3-0-7-0, Watkinson 3-0-10-0

**Umpires:** J W Hilder and G Shep

##### Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire

**TRENT BRIDGE** (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 74 runs ahead of Leicestershire

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:** First Innings 324 (K P Evans 71)

**Second Innings**  
P R Pollard b Mills 5  
R T Robinson c sub b Mills 50  
G F Archer b Simmons 31  
\*P Johnson c Maddy b Pierson 10  
M P Downman c Pierson b Pierson 3  
C M Tolley not out 24  
K P Evans c Maddy b Mills 1  
W M Nixon c Maddy b Pierson 1  
R T Bates c sub b Simmons 8  
M B Bowen not out 11  
Extras (lb 6, lb 2, w 2, nb 2) 24  
Total (8 wickets) 189

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-110, 2-245, 3-98, 4-108, 5-110, 6-116, 7-122, 8-147

**BOWLING:** Mills 15-4-28-3, Pierson 16-5-54-0, Simmons 15-2-44-2, Pierson 15-3-43-3, Brimicombe 3-1-0-0

**LEICESTERSHIRE:** First Innings 119  
V J Wells c Bates b Pierson 119  
D Maddy c Archer b Bates 29  
\*J J Whittaker b Tolley 129  
B F Smith c and b Downman 46  
P J Simmons b Bowen 0  
G J Macmillan b Atford 28  
P A Nixon b Atford 0  
D J Mills c Bates b Tolley 0  
A R Pierson c Robinson b Bates 53  
A R Pierson c Nixon b Bowen 12  
M T Brannon not out 12  
Extras (lb 8, lb 4, w 12) 24  
Total 439

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-61, 2-228, 3-282, 4-357, 5-327, 6-357, 7-357, 8-387, 9-429

**BOWLING:** Evans 12-4-23-0, Bowen 25-3-57-2, Tolley 25-6-53-2, Bates 25-2-88-0, Atford 33-7-33-2, Downman 14-3-42-2

**Bonus points:** Nottinghamshire 6, Leicestershire 8

**Umpires:** B J Meyer and A G T Whithead

##### Somerset v Derbyshire

**TAUNTON** (third day of four): Derbyshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 281 runs ahead of Somerset

**DERBYSHIRE:** First Innings 524 (A S Rolfes 127, K M Kidd 89, D G Carr 77, P A J Derrett 50, G M Roberts 52)

**Second Innings**  
K J Barnett not out 120  
A S Rolfes c sub b Caddick 0  
C J Adams c Turner b Kerr 32  
\*D M Jones not out 53  
D M Jones not out 16  
Total (2 wickets) 221

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-17, 2-29

### BOWLING

Malcolm 34-5-146-3, DeFreitas 22-3-60-0, Cork 14-5-48-1, Harris 23-4-5-35-4, Roberts 25-11-55-1, Barnett 9-0-18-0

**Bonus points:** Somerset 7 Derbyshire 7

**Umpires:** P Willey and A Clarkson

##### Surrey v Northamptonshire

**THE OVAL** (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with four second-innings wickets in hand, require 238 runs to beat Surrey

**SURREY:** First Innings 395 (A J Hone 129, B P Julian 117, J P Taylor 4 for 87)

**Second Innings**  
D J Bicknell c Ripley b Taylor 29  
M A Butcher c and b Ambrose 37  
T J Kersey c Ripley b Capel 21  
G P Thomas c and b Ambrose 31  
B P Julian c Sales b Shane 20  
N Shuhid c Curran b Ambrose 2  
A J Hollis c low b Shane 99  
C G Lewis c Shane b Ambrose 31  
B P Julian c Sales b Shane 20  
M P Bicknell c low b Penberthy 19  
\*A J Hone not out 0  
\*A J Hone not out 0  
Extras (lb 4, lb 15, w 12, nb 14) 35  
Total 286

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-78, 2-88, 3-97, 4-101, 5-127, 6-178, 7-248, 8-286, 9-286

**BOWLING:** Ambrose 25-12-55-4, Taylor 15-7-19-1, Capel 16-4-67-1, Penberthy 18-2-71-1, Shane 17-3-27-2

**Northamptonshire:** First Innings 236 (D Ripley 55, S P Julian 6 for 37)

**Second Innings**  
R R Montgomery c low b Benjamin 38  
A J Swann c low b M P Bicknell 2  
D B Lowe c Lewis 0  
D J Bicknell c low b Lewis 0  
\*K M Curran c Kersey b Lewis 1  
D J Capel not out 0  
P J Bicknell c Butcher b M P Bicknell 28  
TD Ripley not out 2  
Extras (lb 12, lb 5, w 3, nb 12) 32  
Total (8 wickets) 173

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-12, 2-104, 3-105, 4-111, 5-112, 6-182

**BOWLING:** M P Bicknell 14-5-29-2, Lewis 14-2-45-3, Benjamin 9-2-38-1, Julian 7-1-38-0, D J Bicknell 2-1-7-0

**Bonus points:** Surrey 8 Northamptonshire 5

**Umpires:** J D Bond and V A Holder

##### Warwickshire v Essex

**EDGBASTON** (third day of four): Warwickshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, require 371 runs to beat Essex

**ESSEX:** First Innings 282 (R C Irem 67, G C Small 4 for 41)

**Second Innings**  
G A Gooch not out 147  
A P Grayson c Piper b Brown 39  
N Hussain c Piper b Glass 39  
\*P J Prichard c Piper b Glass 108  
R J Green c and b Glass 60  
R J Hollins c and b Glass 60  
M C Bott c Smith b Munton 4  
P J B Lewis not out 8  
Extras (lb 14, lb 10, w 2, nb 4) 30  
Total (8 wickets) 450

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-77, 2-188, 3-277, 4-415, 5-620, 6-625

**BOWLING:** Small 11-1-62-0, Munton 24-2-76-1, Brown 16-2-50-1, Smith 27-1-117-0, Glass 41-0-119-3



## TENNIS

# Muster put to flight by Agassi's aggression

FROM DAVID MILLER IN NEW YORK

ANDRE AGASSI has set the US Open Championships alight with a performance against Thomas Muster that was as masterful as his appearance was absurd. He and his manipulative clothing sponsors contrived to make him look like Harpo Marx in sneakers and stolen trousers, but no matter how ridiculous his attire, the ball coming off his racket is undiluted venom.

There is no player in the game who can rise, as Agassi does, from a state of wanton slovenliness to peak performance in a short time almost at will. This year it has sometimes seemed as if he no longer cared about his reputation, yet he produced an astonishing display to win the Olympic gold medal, against Sergi Bruguera, and has now reached the summit of his form, on his favourite cement surface, in time for the semi-finals tomorrow.

In a quarter-final of acute contrast, Muster, physically lean, taut and mean in manner, looked from the start like the destined loser in *Rocky III*. Repeatedly he was knocked to the ground, repeatedly he would climb back to his feet, the perspiration pouring in rivulets off his angular nose and chin, only to be clobbered

Tim Henman, 21, the Britain tennis No. 1, has pulled out of the inaugural Bournemouth International Open because of thigh and groin problems. He received painkillers for the injuries during his run to the last 16 at the US Open in New York this week.

Henman, expected to rise to a world ranking near 30 on Monday, is also doubtful for Britain's Davis Cup Group Two match against Egypt later this month.

Both players declined to elaborate further on the long-running feud between them over Muster's No. 1 ranking in February, or on the relevance to that dispute of the outcome of this match.

The two players had last met in the US Open at the same stage in 1994, when Muster was seeded No. 13 and Agassi unseeded. Agassi had beaten him in straight sets and gone on to win the trophy, the second of his three grand-slam titles. Agassi's performance this fortnight has wholly substantiated the thinking behind the United States Tennis Association's adjustment of the seedings, compared with ranking positions, made last year.

"Michael's strength starts with his speed," Agassi said. "There's not really a sport you can name in which speed isn't a strong weapon, and he has that. He also has anything up to nine game-plans that he will go to if he needs to, so he can come at you with a lot of different strategies."

ever, he doubted whether Sampras or Ivanisevic, the other probable semi-finalists who were playing late last night (BST), could control Agassi in his present condition.

"You have to be very consistent," Muster said, "and that is probably not enough. He is a tremendous returner, probably the best in the world. I am usually the one that is dominating the game, and he dominated me today."

At his best, Agassi is literally flying: taking his shots with both feet off the ground, his open-grip forehand allowing him to delay the direction of his shot until the opponent is committed. Against Muster, he maintained a destructive length that drained the Austrian's energy as surely as if he were pursuing a trio of Kenyans around the running track.

A debilitating psychological aspect of Agassi's game is that he will never look at his opponent between points. Muster, with his bullying demeanour, likes to stare down his opponents, but the more he glared in Agassi's direction, the more he was left with nothing but the sight of Agassi's back, turning away after firing another sizzling winner.

It was therefore a bit of a surprise for Agassi to arrive in the interview room and say that he wished Muster "would look me in the eye when we shake hands." Muster, having been driven at one stage, when trailing 0-2 in the third set, to demand intervention by the referee and umpire to subdue

intimidating shouts mid-point by Agassi acolytes in the players' box, was probably more inclined to poke Agassi in the eye with his racket handle.

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Asked what kind of game might possibly halt Agassi, who meets Michael Chang, the No. 2 seed, in the semi-final, Muster had one word. "Aces." Even with aces, how-

ever, he doubted whether Sampras or Ivanisevic, the other probable semi-finalists who were playing late last night (BST), could control Agassi in his present condition.

"You have to be very consistent," Muster said, "and that is probably not enough. He is a tremendous returner, probably the best in the world. I am usually the one that is dominating the game, and he dominated me today."



King remains firmly in control of Star Appeal to take the lead in the dressage yesterday

## King reveals star quality to leave field trailing

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING'S run of post-Olympic success continued yesterday when she and Star Appeal went into a comfortable lead at the end of a sunlit first day of dressage at the Burghley Horse Trials, sponsored by Pedigree Churn, in Lincolnshire yesterday.

An obedient, flowing test by the 11-year-old gelding has put King four marks ahead of Pippa Funnell on her Blenheim winner, Bits and Pieces. Didier Seguret is in third place on Coeur De Rocker, a noted three-star horse but yet to impress at this level.

King has scarcely put a foot wrong since her disappointing Olympic performance in Atlanta on King William. At Thriestane three weeks ago she won the Scottish championships on Star Appeal. Last weekend at Gatcombe, riding King William, she won her third British Open title.

Star Appeal has been overdue a change of luck. The big, rangy horse missed Bramham three years ago after puncturing the sole of his foot. The next year he broke his near foreleg and was out for six months.

He returned to competition in the summer of 1994, finish-

ing fourth at Burghley. Last year he was shortlisted for the European championships after winning at Punchestown but overreached three weeks before the event. His Badminton debut this spring ended abruptly when he fell at the first fence. At Bramham, in June, King had a second crashing fall when he ran away with her on the cross country.

"He's been unlucky," King said, "but he's fit now and I've got the brakes sorted out." Where most of the riders have expressed concern at the number of difficult fences early on in the course for the cross country tomorrow, King is delighted. "The bigger the better for him."

Funnell and Seguret are less enthusiastic. Burghley is a big step up for the skewsided Bits and Pieces, and Funnell spent yesterday afternoon walking the course with Mark Phillips, the designer, to plan her route. Seguret will be taking two of the longer, easier routes tomorrow. "Some courses are difficult and some are technical — this is both," he said.

Andrew Nicholson, on Buckley Province, the winner last year and fourth overnight

after his best dressage test to date, will be quick to take advantage of any mistakes by the leaders. Nicholson, one of the most effective of cross-country riders, intends to take the direct routes. He and his New Zealand compatriot, Mark Todd, who was 23rd on Kingarrie, both have second rides today.

Several top riders have some catching up to do tomorrow after disappointing tests. Karen Dixon lost valuable marks when her veteran performer, Get Smart, was distracted by the shrill barks from the dog crate adjacent to the arena.

The most relieved rider yesterday was Rodney Powell with his 1994 Blenheim runner-up, Comic Relief. At Badminton, the 10-year-old gelding spent much of his dressage test on his hind legs. The aptly-named horse had another aberration at Gatcombe last week. Yesterday he was the model of decorum, finishing well in contention in sixth place.

STANDINGS (after first day of dressage): 1, Star Appeal (M King, GB) 45.5; 2, Bits and Pieces (P Funnell, GB) 41.4; 3, Coeur De Rocker (D Seguret, FR) 40.6; equal 4, Buckley Province (A Nicholson, NZ) and Best Seller (M Wessels, US) 38.4; 6, Comic Relief (R Powell, GB) 38.0.

## SAILING

## Merricks battling to match Lennon

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the first six races in the Glenfiddich Melges 24 national championships at Brixham, Mike Lennon, the defending champion on *Raw Hyde*, has established a strong position, with three firsts and two third places, to lead the 24-strong fleet.

At the head of the chasing pack is the 470 Olympic helmsman and silver medal-winner, John Merricks, on *Glenfiddich 3*, who is sailing in his first Melges regatta, with Rob Smith, on *Henri Lloyd Rapid Breathing*, in third.

The 12-race championship, which comes just a month before the Melges European championship in Barcelona, has not attracted as many entries as had been hoped for, but the racing has been close.

Yesterday, in fresh conditions, Lennon showed blistering downwind speed, recovering from a poor start in the third race of the day to finish third after being well down the pack as late as the second seaward mark. Merricks, who, like his Olympic partner, Ian Walker, is trying to find the focus for his next big campaign, already appears to be Lennon's most likely challenger, with one first, two seconds and two thirds.

Yesterday he won the first race but was unlucky in the second when his spinnaker became tangled in his jib as he was dropping it. The problem was solved after Sacha Nice, a crewman, climbed the mast to free the sail. Merricks still managed to finish fifth, having dropped back from second.

David Bedford, on *Glenfiddich 1*, retired from the first race after he broke his bowsprit in an incident on the startline with Clive Jacobs, on *Flash Harry*, and Charlie Stobart-Hook, on *Interalpha*. Two others retired from the second race with rudder and traveller problems.

Bedford, who was second to Lennon at Cowes, has made an uncharacteristically poor start, with only one top-five finish, and is lying twelfth overall.

## CYCLING

## Boardman aiming at new peaks

BY PETER BRYAN

CHRIS BOARDMAN, who twice set world records on his way to winning the world 4,000 metres pursuit championship in Manchester last week, will attempt to beat the world one-hour record on the same track tonight.

Boardman's aim is to improve the distance of 55.291 kilometres, covered by Tony Rominger at Bordeaux two years ago, which means he will have to circle the 250-metre wooden track 222 times to be assured of becoming the new champion in the sport's blue-ribbon event.

Since winning his world pursuit title, Boardman has experienced with slight changes to his stretched-out "Superman" position, devised by Graeme Obree when the International Cycling Union (ICU) outlawed his original skier's tuck.

At a press conference yesterday, Boardman said that he had made slight changes "because riding for one hour is quite different from a 4,000 metres pursuit". He will use new handlebars, specially made to his design, to seek a greater degree of comfort. Even then, he expects to come out of the "Superman" style once or twice to ease the strain on his arm muscles.

He refused to predict the distance he might cover but said: "If all goes to plan, I will put the record at such a level that the top riders will have to think long and hard before attempting to break it."

If Boardman is successful, the record might well be the last set by a rider in "Superman" mode to be accepted by the governing body.

Hein Verbruggen, the ICU's director-general, is a known advocate of redefining the regulations so that machines have to be built to a more conventional design.

"If Boardman breaks the record, it will be within the rules," he said. "But our technical commission is studying these innovations and will

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Essex plans for Law disrupted by rain

STUART LAW, Essex's Australian all-rounder, is highly unlikely to play in the NatWest Trophy final against Lancashire at Lord's tomorrow. Essex had planned to fly Law back from Sri Lanka today, had Australia been eliminated from the Singer Cup tournament by India in the final group match yesterday. But rain forced the postponement of the game for 24 hours. Had Australia lost, Law could have been back in London by 4pm today, giving him time for a good night's rest before the final.

Now, the earliest he can arrive in England is at 9.15am on Saturday, 75 minutes before the start at Lord's. "At present we are not contemplating Stuart being able to play," Peter Edwards, the Essex general manager, said. "But you never know what could happen if there is rain and the final is delayed, or if by 10am he's in a taxi and feeling good."

## Thugwane pulls out

ATHLETICS: Josia Thugwane, the Olympic marathon champion, who claims death threats have been made against him, has pulled out of the Great North Run on September 15. The 25-year-old security guard, who became South Africa's first black gold medal-winner, said of the threats from a criminal organisation: "They think I'm rich."

## Britons go for record

TENNIS: Megan Miller, based in Florida, and Jo Ward, of Durham, make their debuts when Britain Under-21 women attempt a record fourth successive victory over the United States in the Maureen Connolly Trophy in Texas later this month. Also in the team are Mandy Wainwright, of Chingford, and Claire Taylor and Lizzie Jelfs, of Banbury.

## Parrott flies fold

SNOOKER: John Parrott has withdrawn from the England team for the World Cup in Thailand next month. The former world champion has opted not to travel to Bangkok because the event takes place when his wife is expecting the birth of their second child. Ronnie O'Sullivan joins Peter Ebdon and Nigel Bond in the England line-up.

## First-class Male

REAL TENNIS: James Male, the world rackets champion who became a professional this week, celebrated his new-found status when he and Julian Snow, the world's top amateur, reached the final of the prestigious Cos d'Estournel European Open doubles championship with victory over Adam Phillips and Nick Wood in straight sets.

## FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf days for the 1996 Challenge. The top four individual scorers on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
8 SEP	TAMARIS PLC	MOUNT OBER	40
7 SEP	BARROE PARIRAN	BRICKWOOD PARK	40
9 SEP	KENVEDYS	MEYTHORPE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	40
9 SEP	WHS TINNER LTD	THE MANOR HOUSE HOTEL, A CASTLE	25
8 SEP	TNT EXPRESS WORLDWIDE	MOTTHAM HALL HOTEL	90
9 SEP	TILE COTTO COMMERCIAL CHEMICALS EXPRESSES LIMITED	BRANSTON	100
10 SEP	EUROPA - EUROPEAN EXPRESS LIMITED	STAVERTON PARK	70
10 SEP	DEC PLEASER SEMICONDUCTORS	TENKESBURY PARK	100
10 SEP	KIA CARR (UK) LTD	THE BELFRY	32
10 SEP	MANAGEMENT SCIENCE LTD	KNOCKNEY HALL	16
10 SEP	R J MAXWELL & SON LTD	CARTLEDGE	80
10 SEP	RESIN EXPRESS LIMITED	STOCKS HOTEL COUNTRY	40
10 SEP	SERVICE TEC INT. LTD	WELLCOME HOTEL	120
10 SEP	SPECTRUS SYSTEMS LTD	HELLDON LAKES	60
10 SEP	UPONOR LTD	BREASDALE PHOBY	70
10 SEP	WALON LIMITED	COLLINSFEE PARK	40
10 SEP	WHICHESTER WHITE LIMITED	SANDFORD SPRINGS	30
10 SEP	XDAL LTD	THE VALE	40
11 SEP	R H	MEYTHORPE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	90
11 SEP	BYRON JOHNSON & CO	HEVER	50
11 SEP	C L & CO	ROYAL ST GEORGES	60
11 SEP	LYONS BANK PLC CORPORATE BANKING	KINGSWOOD	40
11 SEP	SILVER LEVENE	OTTERHAM PARK COUNTRY CLUB	40
11 SEP	VERNON BUILDING SOCIETY	BRANHAM	40
12 SEP	C.L.C. GROUP LTD	WATERLOOVILLE	45
12 SEP	CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP	PICKUP HALL HOTEL	40
12 SEP	ELECTRICAL REVIEW	THE WARWICKSHIRE	130
12 SEP	ESBE LTD	FOXHILLS	70
12 SEP	FALCON PANEL PRODUCTS LTD	WALTON HEATH	28
12 SEP	HAMMOND SIDDARDS	LYTHAM & ST ANNES	70
12 SEP	ICL (NORTH)	ROCKMOUNT	40
12 SEP	MILLER INTERNATIONAL LTD	RODMOND	18
12 SEP	NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE	CLACTON - ON - SEA	30
12 SEP	BARBANK, LONDON BRANCH	WORPLESSON	60
12 SEP	SHANDON LEIGURE	BRAD HILLS	28
12 SEP	SMC PNEUMATICS UK LTD	WOLKIN	30
12 SEP	TAYLOR NELSON A&S	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	60
12 SEP	THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASS REGION	NAC COUNTRY CLUB	70
13 SEP	CHARITABLE HOMES	LOUTH	40
13 SEP	DATATECH INTERNATIONAL	DULWICH & STODHAM HILL	24
13 SEP	DONE METAL SERVICES	CANTERBURY	50
13 SEP	DOW JONES TELEGRATE	ADDINGTON COURT	24
13 SEP	JET	FIMCHLEY	24
13 SEP	PLATO COMPUTER SERVICES (UK) LTD	MEYTHORPE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	50
13 SEP	PM GROUP OF COMPANIES	GREENMOUNT	100
13 SEP	SUMMERS & PARTNERS	NORTHUMBERLAND	40
13 SEP	TALLAND INTERNATIONAL	CHERWELL EDGE	30
13 SEP	TYP-EX LIMITED	THE DENNISONE	80
14 SEP	WOODEN SPOON SOCIETY	THE BELFRY	104

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## FOOTBALL: FOREIGN TRAVELLERS OFFERED JOURNEY INTO UNKNOWN BY COCA-COLA CUP DRAW

## Ravanelli seeks out Hereford

BY DAVID MADDOCK

## DRAW

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI will no doubt be getting out his bumper atlas of Great Britain this morning to check exactly where Hereford is. The Italian, along with the rest of the cosmopolitan band of overseas FA Carling Premiership newcomers, was given the perfect introduction to English football yesterday morning when the draw was made for the Coca-Cola Cup.

The second round, with its seeding bias, inevitably throws up some wonderfully eccentric pairings. Ravanelli, Juninho and Emerson will not have heard of Hereford United, of the Nationwide League third division, never mind know where they play, but he and his Middlesbrough colleagues will not forget their visit to the tiny Edgar Street ground in a hurry.

Chelsea, more glamorous now with Gullit, Vialli, Di

Sheffield Wednesday v Oxford United, Fulham v Ipswich, Preston v Tottenham, Blackpool v Chelsea, Southampton v Peterborough, Oldham v Tranmere, Barnsley v Gillingham, Bury v Crystal Palace, Wimbledon v Portsmouth, Middlesbrough v Hereford, Nottingham Forest v Wycombe, Swindon v QPR, Brentford v Blackburn, Scarborough v Leicester, Bristol City v Bolton, Lincoln v Manchester City, Barnet v West Ham, Charlton v Burnley, Leeds v Derwent, Stockport v Sheffield United, Everton v York, Huddersfield v Colchester, Wrexham v Sunderland, Luton v Derby, Port Vale v Cardiff, Coventry v Birmingham, Stoke v Northampton.

The legs to be played weeks starting Sep 16 and Sep 23

prospect of the Chelsea international brigade sampling sticks of Blackpool rock and dodgy meat pies is perhaps the image of the round.

The 15 Premiership clubs in the second round have all been drawn against lower-division opposition, with no fewer than 12 facing teams from the second and third divisions. Blackpool, of course, are particularly pleased with the

"It is wonderful for the town to be able to see some of the game's finest players coming to our place. And I'm sure Vialli and the rest will treat us very seriously because they won't want to be embarrassed."

York City, who arguably produced the biggest upset in the competition's history when they defeated Manchester United at this stage last season, have the chance to prove their pedigree once more after being drawn against Everton. Alan Little's side must travel to Goodison Park for the first leg and Little said: "You can bet Everton won't make the mistake of underestimating us after our result against United."

The most intriguing tie of the round sees Birmingham City visit Coventry City in the first leg. It presents the opportunity for the ambitious first division club to visit local rivals in order to measure their progress and their capability.

## Euro 96 helps to lift league attendances

EARLY-SEASON attendances in the FA Carling Premiership and the Nationwide League have risen — with the success of Euro 96 a factor in the surge of interest in the English game.

The Premiership reports a 4.2 per cent increase in supporters at the turnstiles after four rounds of fixtures, with the influx of leading international players into this country another draw.

The Football League, despite being unable to draw on the same kind of big-name signings, reports attendances up by 4 per cent in relation to the same period 12 months ago.

In the Premiership, the gates are already past the 1 million mark, with 1,127,006 attending at an average of 28,175 per game. This compares with a 27,012 average for the opening four rounds of matches last season and is also 2 per cent up on the 77,500

press officer, said: "The signs are very encouraging. I wouldn't like to put Euro 96 in isolation as the reason for gates going up. After all, attendances in the Premier League at the end of 1995-96 were up 30 per cent compared to the inaugural 1992-93 season, but there is no doubt Euro 96 has been a positive factor and I think the new brand of international stars in the Premiership is another reason."

Glasgow and Edinburgh were put on a Coca-Cola Cup collision course last night as the quarter-final draw kept apart the Old Firm of Celtic and Rangers. Instead, Celtic travel to Tynecastle to meet Hearts while Rangers will be at home to Hibernian.

The last-eight draw at Hampden also threw up a repeat of last season's final between Aberdeen and Dundee, with the first division club managed by Jim Duffy, drawn at home.



# Brighton not breezy enough for board game

CLEMENT FREUD



On Friday

The board is hard and narrow, like the mattress on a single bed in a temperance hotel; the mast is high, the sail transparent and, if the wind blows, there is no reason why a person with decent balance should not engage his feet in the straps provided, hold the mast with one hand and push out the sail in the right direction with the other. Thus will he move across the water.

After a while they teach you how to tack: not many people master that, which is why the favoured position of an average windsurfer is lying in the water next to his equipment. Competitors under the command of the British Windsurfers' Association are of a different order altogether: they skim across the water, slam and carve-gybe, perform table tops, double loops and more.

The O'Neill and Philips PWA British Windsurfing World Cup takes place at Brighton this week. \$50,000 (about £32,000) in prize money, half a hundred contestants from around the globe, two from nearby Shoreham — home village of our No 1 (the world's No 4), Nik Baker, whose younger brother, Ant, competes also.

I met Nik Baker yesterday for a journeyman breakfast in the Grand Hotel, on the promenade: he is 25, wears a diamond stud in his right ear, started windsurfing when he was 12, won the junior championship at 15 — a modest, agreeable man. As there were no Grapevins on the buffet, I took some stewed figs. Baker asked what they were. They were dead, I told him. Baker ate cornflakes.

The successful windsurfer is over 6ft tall, weighs around 100 kilos and comes from Hawaii or the Canaries, where there is the right weather throughout the year; he has sufficient money to buy the latest sophisticated equipment. Ten years ago boards were 3.8 metres long and weighed 20 kilos. Today 2.5-metre boards weighing 3.5 kilos are commonplace: state of the art, Kevlar, carbon-fibre, honeycomb sandwich... different boards for different winds and different



Nik Baker, the British No 1, waits for the wind to reach minimum velocity in Brighton yesterday. Photograph: Andrew Haddon

people. Baker is 5ft 9in, weighs 76 kilos and is sponsored by Fanatic (boards), ART (sails), Oxbow (clothing), Bok (footwear) and Red Bull (energy drink). I take a sip from his bottle of Red Bull; it tastes of dissolved wine gums, dissolved red wine gums.

"Most of our money goes on planes, hotels and cars, especially on excess baggage flying to Hawaii. What we make, we spend."

I ask why there are not more contests in Britain. It is the weather; Penzance is the best we have. "Good winds, big waves, nice people..." but Hawaii and the Canaries are the Rolls-Royce locations, the world championship heats in Gran Canaria and Tenerife the most valuable and prestigious. A race consists of three stages: circumnavigation of a stubby circuit, downwind slalom and

riding waves — this last discipline is missing at Brighton, where the sea is flat.

On Wednesday, when the winds finally reached the minimum required nine-knot velocity, Anders Bringdal, sailing a new-design boat with a glider-wing shaped sail, beat

On the credit side, the outcome is open.

Competitive windsurfing in Britain is a waiting game. The Mexicans have a saying: "A man can drink only so many Margaritas". Here, there is no limit to our wait for requisite winds. Kick-off was originally billed

## 'For a journalist with a deadline, indoor windsurfing might be just the thing'

Nik Baker, Bringdal is Swedish — 6ft 5in, 95 kilos, world No 2. The master who towers over this sport as Steffi Graf commands hers is Bjorn Dunkerbeck, of Holland, winner of the World Cup for eight successive years. Sadly, he is missing the British heat: an event without Dunkerbeck is like a puppet show without Punch.

for 10am. By noon they announced it would not be long now; at 1pm they thought it would be right by "two" and at 2.30 a man said: "If there is no more wind, ever, Baker will be overall runner-up by virtue of his second place on Wednesday."

The wind on the course that had

been put down 500 metres from shore diminished and the buoys were relocated and I went to examine a sail, from adjustable head to down-haul, pausing to admire the boom cut-out, foot-baton, tensioner, clew, foot and luff.

And I picked up a magazine and read a report on indoor windsurfing: a row of large fans placed down one side of a flooded stadium. At 3.30pm, after some 30 minutes of fevered to-ing and fro-ing, the contestants sailed their first course: all 50 of them, and Baker won. As we learnt forward to witness the slalom, the public address system told us that winds had dropped to five to seven knots: please wait for further announcements.

And I thought that if a journalist with a deadline was sent to report windsurfing, the indoor version might be just the thing.

## BOWLS

## Triples winner falls foul of single sting

By DAVID REYS JONES

IRENE MOLYNEUX, who skipped the City and County of Oxford to the triples title in the Double Century English women's championships at Laxington Spa on Wednesday, went out of the singles in the preliminary round after being stung by a bee.

She had to go to hospital for treatment during her match with Sue Lee, of North Walsham. "They had to saw my wedding ring off my finger, and pump me with antibiotics," Molyneux said. "But I can't blame the bee stinging for putting me out of the championship because Sue was already a few shots in front and, even if I had won, I doubt if I would have made it to the final."

Kath Hawes, who is carrying the Oxford club's hopes in the quarter-finals today, is, at 27, almost 50 years younger than Molyneux, but has the same staccato and delivery, having modelled herself on her redoubtable club colleague.

In 1994, Hawes teamed up with Howard Watts and the husband and wife partnership of Gary and Jackie Harrington

to win the All-England mixed fours title. Now, she and Harrington are in line to meet in the semi-finals.

First, however, Harrington will have to beat the 1993 champion, Dorothy Prior, of Heston, and Hawes has to overcome Maureen Eccles, of Seascale, who scored a memorable 21-20 victory over Norma May, the 1987 champion, yesterday.

Mary Price, the 1988 singles champion, is still going strong in singles and fours. Her 21-18 second-round win over Gill Fitzgerald in the singles avenged her defeat by the Kettering Lodge player in the Champion of Champions singles event last week.

Also catching the eye in the fours is the 17-year-old Lincolnshire skip, Amy Gough, who has already played in three junior international series.

She faced a stern test from a Carlton Conway quartet, skipped by Brenda Atherton, next year's England president, and came through with flying colours, winning 20-15.

Results, page 38

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

## TAPPIIT

(a) Crested or tufted, a Scottish version of topped. Chiefly in the collocation the tappit hen. A hen having a crest or topknot. A drinking-vessel having a lid with a knob, specifically one containing a Scotch quart. Walter Scott, *Waverley*, 1816: "A huge pewter measuring-pot, containing at least three English quarts, familiarly denominated a tappit hen."

## UNCT

(b) To anoint, chiefly Scottish. From unct- the participle stem of the Latin *ungere*, *ungere* to smear. "David having reigned 33 years in Jerusalem, where he was the third time anointed."

## TAWPIE

(a) A foolish, senseless or thoughtless girl or woman. Mainly Scottish. An idle twaddle is a slattern. Probably from the Norse, of the Norwegian *tapp* a half-witted person, chiefly of women. Robert Burns, *Verses at Selkirk*, 1781: "Gawdies, twapiers, gowks and fools." Free colleges and boarding-schools.

## UMBRATIC

(a) Confined to the shade or retirement; retired, secluded. From the Latin *umbra* a shade, *umbraticus* staying in the shade. Also *shadewy*, *foreshadowy*, *De Quincey*, *Tait's Magazine*, 1839: "The torpid dreams of what the Romans called an umbratic experience."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qh8-Kh8 2 Rb8-Kh7 3 Ng5-Kh6 4 Nf7-Kh7 5 Rh8-mate.

## BOXING: CHAMPION HEEDS LESSONS OF THE PAST IN EFFORT TO TAME TYSON

## Seldon plans service with a smile

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

IT IS hard to believe that Bruce Seldon, who has been knocked out in one round by Riddick Bowe, will be able to do much better against Mike Tyson when they meet at the MGM Grand Garden here tomorrow. The World Boxing Association (WBA) champion believes, however, that he can emulate James "Buster" Douglas and become the second man to beat Tyson.

Seldon has studied film of Douglas's bout with Tyson and intends to follow the Douglas plan of "stay calm, and stick to your game."

It might sound like the kind of advice that Captain Mainwaring gave to his men, but Seldon fully intends to stick to it. "When Tyson gets in there, I'm going to be smiling," he said. "You are going to see the biggest smile on my face."

Seldon is hoping to find the strength to carry out his strategy from the memory of his mother, Joan, who died

three years ago at the age of 54. "I have never forgotten her," Seldon said.

"I speak to her every day, in the morning and at night, and she gives me strength. Her memory and that of my trainer, Carmen Graziano, who died four years ago, will sustain me. They are with me in spirit. They'd be proud of me now," Douglas, remem-

ber, claimed that a similar kind of maternal motivation lay behind his fleeting moment of glory.

Seldon knows he caused his mother pain by taking part in an armed robbery in his home town of Atlantic City, New Jersey, at the age of 16 and spending the next four years in prison. "I killed her," he said. "I told myself I had to do something positive to make up to her, to make up for all the tears she shed over me."

Seldon disciplined himself by joining the prison boxing team and won the New Jersey prison title. When he came up for parole, he found that the head of the board was a boxing fan who decided to give Seldon his chance.

Seldon's mother saw her son make amends by setting out on his boxing career. He built a creditable record of 31 wins out of 32 contests before she died. When he won the WBA title last year, by stopping Tony Tucker, he went

straight back to Atlantic City and spent two hours by his mother's graveside. "I would have loved her to have been there," he said. "There will always be pain, but I think it has made me stronger."

Many experts believe that he will need more than just his mother's memory to look Tyson in the face and keep his nerve. Seldon's manager, Rocco DePersia, an Atlantic City attorney, disagrees. "He went into the New Jersey penal system at the age of 16, a boy among animals. He came out a man. Tyson is not going to intimidate him on a personal basis."

After the defeat by Bowe in 1991, Seldon almost gave up boxing but his promise to his mother kept him going. Of the disparaging odds for Saturday — Tyson 12-1 on to win on a knockout, Seldon 25-1 to win — DePersia said: "Don't talk to me about odds. When he was 15, you couldn't get odds he would be alive today."



Seldon: disciplined

## FISHING: FRESHWATER PROPOSALS INCLUDE UNIVERSAL BANNING OF GAFFS

## Plans put rod numbers on the line

By BRIAN CLARKE

THE Environment Agency will advertise plans next week to change fishery bylaws in ways that will affect every freshwater angler in England and Wales. They include proposals to abolish the close season for rainbow trout on lakes and to impose limits on the number of rods which anglers may use at one time. The use of gaffs anywhere would be banned.

The proposals are part of a move to provide a common set of rules to replace the hotchpotch of regulations inherited from the old water authorities in 1989. The plans will be advertised from next Wednesday for public comment. Significant changes are unlikely, though.

The effect of the abolition of a close season for rainbow trout would be to introduce,

for the first time, year-round fishing for trout on all lakes. It is a logical step. Close seasons for fish were first introduced over 100 years ago. Their aim was to prevent harassment of fish while spawning — but rainbows are an imported, farm-reared species that has never been able to spawn in a British lake environment. The close season for rainbow trout in rivers, where some fish have been able to breed, is not changed. Likewise the close season for the native brown trout is unaffected.

Plans to limit the number of rods an angler may use at one time will cause no stir in the game-fishing world, but may upset some coarse fishermen. Salmon and trout anglers will be limited to the use of one rod on rivers and two rods on lakes.

A proposal to allow coarse fishers to use up to four rods

at a time — a perfectly feasible one — may well, however, produce protests from traditionalists.

The four-rod limit comes as a response to special pleading by specimen-hunters, anglers who will pursue, perhaps, a couple of known big fish in a large expanse of water. They say that, even with four rods apiece, their chances of making contact will be slim. Traditionalists, though, are likely to argue that four rods are too many for any angler to use safely, that there is a danger of simultaneous bites on more than one rod and that, on small waters, one man with four rods could commandeer the scene. They will see trouble in store unless fishery owners step in and apply lower limits.

A range of other changes are proposed, including restrictions on the kinds of nets

used to land fish and to keep them. Knotted and metallic nets would be banned and keepnets would need to be not less than two metres long. All of these proposals are designed to minimise damage to fish and in the main will be welcomed.

A change that will be greeted with relief — many anglers have felt it to be long overdue — is a proposal to abolish the gaff, one of the oldest of fishing implements known to man. The gaff is a large, sharp hook on the end of a long shaft. It has been used for thousands of years — more recently by poachers — for snatching fish from the water. For hundreds of years it has also been used by some anglers to land big fish such as pike and salmon.

Most anglers, though, now regard the instrument as barbaric and unnecessary.

## RADIO CHOICE

## Keeping faith with Boz

The Classic Serial: *Dombey and Son*, Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Michael Bakewell has pulled it off again. He is an old hand at putting Dickens on radio, always with respect for the inimitable Boz. Naturally, something has to be cut out, but Bakewell uses a scalpel not a butcher's chopper. His six-part adaptation of *Dombey and Son* has begun very well indeed. Already in episode one, we have reached the point where "and Son" gazes wistfully out to sea, wondering what the wild waves are saying. From this, you can deduce what a lot Bakewell has packed into 60 minutes. One or two things give me problems. Samuel West's Walter Gay sounds too mature. More worryingly, the ice in the soul of Dickens's Dombey Senior, is audibly thawing in Ian Hogg's.

Mad About Musicals, Radio 2, 7.00pm.

The madness of the title is something I have happily been afflicted with all my life. Therefore, this stage musicals quiz is right up my (42nd) street. Breaking with tradition, the contestants are all amateurs. Clearly, one reason they put up such a good show is that some of them have played in the shows about which they answer questions. Inverness play Motherwell and Wishaw in this inaugural contest. Paul Nicholas, chairman, and Peggy O'Keefe, pianist, are the only professionals involved. The highest compliment I can pay to the amateurs is that I could hardly hear the seams when they are stitched together with the professionals.

Peter Daville

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Dave Pearce 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnham 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle, with Rancid recorded live at Tivoli Theatre 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Annie Nightingale 5.00 Charlie Jordan

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thwaiter 3.00 Alan Lester 5.00 Pat Healey 7.00 Mad About Musicals, See Choice 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night, From the Hippodrome in Golders Green, With the BBC Concert Orchestra under Richard Baines 8.45 Every Living Thing 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Alan Titchmarsh Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.00am Sue McGarry

## RADIO 3 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 8.30 The Breakfast Programme 9.35 The Magazine, with Doreen MacLellan 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mark, Inc 12.35pm Musiccheck, with Philpott Lennie 2.00 Puccini on Five, Nationalwide, Inc 4.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, with David Thwaiter 7.30 Parkinson on Sport 8.30 Friday Sport, with Robin Bailey, Football: Reading v Oxford United; Motor racing: reports from the practice session for the Italian Grand Prix 10.45 Paper Talk, with Jay Rayner and David Bentley 11.00 Night Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00 AM Night

## TALK RADIO

6.00am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Cranholm 1.00pm Anna Reesman 3.00pm Tommy Dorsey 6.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dixon

## WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 5.45 Folk Routes 6.30 Europe Today 6.45 Going Solo 6.50 The Insider's Guide 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Rock Salad 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 The Way of the Buddha 8.15 Music Review 8.45 Soundbite 10.00 Business Report 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.45 Sport 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.00pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Scenes in Action 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack: Alternative 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 8.30 Business Report 8.45 Britain Today 8.15 World Today 8.25 Spotlight 6.30 News in German 7.30 Focus on Faith 9.00 News Summary 9.01 Proms '96 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.20 For and Against 11.30 The New Europe 11.45 Sport 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 The Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multitrack: Alternative 1.30 Seven Days Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sport 4.30 The Vintage Chart Show

## CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Miles Reid 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00pm Susanah Simon 1.00pm Concerto in D-flat (Violin Concerto in E major) 3.00pm Jamie Crie 6.00 Classic Newswatch 6.30pm Sports 7.00 Classic Showcase 8.00pm Evening Concert, Rossini (Overture: The Barber of Seville); Richard Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 2 in F minor); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in minor) 10.00 Michael Mapin 1.00am Sally Patterson

## VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dean 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) (AM) Robin Bailey 11.00pm Freeman 12.00am Jeremy Lee Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Presented by Andrew McGregor, includes Bach (Trio Sonata in C, BWV529); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D); Beethoven (Symphony No 16 in B flat); Bach (Trio Sonata in G, BWV530); Beethoven (Overture The Creatures of Prometheus)

9.00 Morning Collection, includes Haydn (Symphony in G minor); Verdi (Parsifal... Figgli Mio Padre!); Janacek (Sinfonia)

10.00 Musical Encounters, includes Bach (Symphony in E flat, Op 8 No 5); Beethoven (Sonata in A flat, Op 110); Brahms (Ballade, Op 10 Nos 2, 3 and 4); Vivaldi (The Unanswered Question); Beethoven (Incidental music: Leonore Prologue); Liszt (Après une lecture du Dante); Pfitzner (Violin Concerto)

12.00 Composers of the Week: Felix Mendelssohn and the Heritage of Spain 1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert; Bartok, Pique, introduced by Chris de Souza, William Dezevel, bantons, Jussi Drake, piano, Dorask (Seven Gypsy Melodies, Op 55); Bartok (Five Songs, Op 16); Kurtág (Three Old Hungarian Folk Songs) (6)

1.55 Preoccupations, featuring the obit Douglas Boyd talking about something close to his heart

2.00 Telemann, Douglas Boyd, oboe, Harold Lester, chamber organ, Richard Lester, cello, Telemann (Trio Sonata in E flat)

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, Inc 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Family Life — Birth, Death and the Whole Damn Thing (5/5) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs, The designer Terence Conran (1)

9.45 Feedback, the last in the current series 10.00 News: Survivors: Esther's Story. The story of a woman imprisoned in Sobibor prison camp, in the heart of Nazi-occupied Europe (5/5) 10.30 The Natural History Programme 11.30 News: You and Yours, with Dylan Witter 12.25pm Over the Counter, Oliver Watson samples sausages and salmon in a Cornish setting with Huw and Sally Jones (3/4) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1/1) 1.55 Shipping and Son, See Choice (1/3) (1)

3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Tim Marlow talks to Ruth Rendell about her new book, The Keys to the Street 4.45 Short Story: Chocolate Lovers, by Lesley Glaister Reader Noreen Kerehaw (1) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 6.55 Weather 6.00 St. O'Clock News 6.30 Parks and Gardens, Simon Parkes visits a very special garden in Devon (4/5)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week 8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the first of a new series, with David Blunkett, MP, the broadcaster Sean Campbell, Roderic Freeman, MP, and Madam Pina, president of the Adam Smith Institute

8.50 Spreading an Expert, in a new series, Laurie Taylor tries to pass himself off as an expert in six different fields. This week, he has to try to become a successful poet

9.15 Letter from America, by Alister Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: 50 Years of the Edinburgh Festival, Paul Allen sees the closing events of the festival and discusses the contribution the festival has made to the culture of Great Britain (1) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Enigma, Samuel West reads Robert Harris's thriller (10/12) 11.00 The Mark Steel Show. This week Mark Steel tackles pascamism (4/4)

11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick Harman and guests 11.45 A Cry in the Dark, Joanna Pinnoch presents the first of five programmes about the calls of nocturnal animals. Adrian Barnett interprets the night-time calls of the world's only nocturnal monkey and the local vermin pest

12.00 News and 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Some Kind of Black (5/10) (1) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1, FM 97.9-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.3-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6, LW 156, MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683, 930, WORLD SERVICE, MW 658, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.6, MW 1197, 1216, TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1089, Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McKenna.









## GOLF 38

Davies laughing  
all the way  
to the bank

## SPORT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1996

## TENNIS 41

Agassi pulls no  
punches in  
defeat of Muster



## Five nations step back from the brink



Dallaglio: good base

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY could have been the day when England received marching orders from rugby union's five nations championship. Instead, the most famous of competitions was saved "for the foreseeable future" in what must be deemed the most encouraging moment for the sport in a year filled with bitterness.

Though he resisted the temptation to wave a piece of paper in the air and announce "Peace in our time," Colin Hurrell could not resist a weary smile when he announced an accord between the five nations — aptly enough at the Rugby Club in London where the game's best-known almanac, the *Rothmans Rugby Union Yearbook*, was being launched.

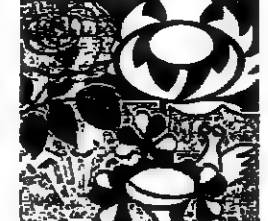
Hurrell, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) treasurer, was entitled to be weary. He was one of the union negotiating team, alongside John Richardson, the president, and Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the executive committee, who burnt the midnight oil in Bristol alongside Tom Kiernan and Syd Millar (Ireland), Vernon Pugh (Wales) and Alan Hosié (Scotland) to resolve the three-month dispute during which Scotland, Ireland and Wales proposed the expulsion of England from the championship.

The precise detail of their agreement will not be known before Monday, at a press conference in Dublin, but it still requires the approval of the respective national committees — those of England and Scotland met today, the Welsh met yesterday. The four

nations had been due yesterday to make a decision on their relationship with England but that meeting was postponed until Monday, when a four-nation tournament would have been announced.

The dispute had its roots in England's broadcasting agreement with BSkyB, the satellite company part-owned by News International, owners of *The Times*. Hurrell said the other unions recognised that agreement, worth £87.5 million over five years, to be legally binding and that it remained in place. There must be speculation as to whether the Celtic nations have also accepted the money on offer from BSkyB — £40.5 million to Wales and £28 million each to Scotland and Ireland, which recognises the relative playing strength of each nation.

## FIVE NATIONS



## CHAMPIONSHIP

It is understood that yesterday's accord will leave the ten championship games equally divided between terrestrial television and BSkyB, and that the money to be equally divided between the four home unions will amount to around £9 million a year each. The existing contract with the BBC, which expires next March, is worth £2.38 million

to Scotland, Ireland and Wales, England's £4.25 million being boosted by a satellite contribution.

The Celtic nations stood on two points of principle: the first, that the five nations is a joint property and can only be sold by the competing countries (the French were kept informed of the Bristol meeting) acting in conjunction. The second, the desirability or otherwise of a virtual monopoly by one broadcaster of significant rugby throughout the world. BSkyB is also an associate company of News Corporation, who last year negotiated a ten-year agreement with the major southern-hemisphere countries.

All four home unions desperately need cash to develop their sport and pay players in the newly-professionalised game, and satellite television

holds bigger purse strings than any terrestrial broadcaster. Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said yesterday: "BSkyB is not all bad, there is much to be gained from them and the money allows us to take a strong place not only in the five nations but in world rugby," he said.

Hallett acknowledged the damage done to the sport's image this year by a series of rows in which the RFU has been embroiled — with the other home unions, with their own leading clubs and internally. His hope is that success on one front will now lead to an unravelling of the other knotty problems.

Ernie and the leading Welsh clubs threatened last week to break away from their governing body, but Hallett added: "I believe we will find a solution which keeps the se-

nior clubs wholly under the RFU."

That may also depend upon the players, who supported the clubs by staying away from England's training session at Bisham Abbey on Wednesday. "That was not a snub to the RFU but an indication that we needed to find out where we stand," Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain and a leading candidate for the England position, said.

"We welcome the news about the five nations. It would be a shame to lose the historic tradition the championship has, but that is only a basis from which we should move on. It's a sound basis and the envy of other countries but if we are to win the World Cup we have to beat the best in the world."

Gerald Davies, page 38

## Unemployment benefits are on Hill's mind

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MONZA

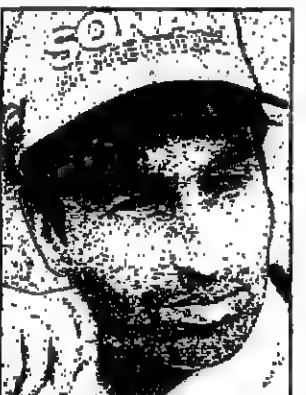
DAMON HILL gazed out beyond the banks of cameras, the howling questioners and the observers perched precariously on stools and benches, and contemplated life after Williams here yesterday. He talked about the team as if it was a family whose father figure had told him to leave home. "On reflection," he said, "maybe it is time I flew the nest."

Hill looked strained but far from downcast as he spoke for the first time about the moment Frank Williams, the team owner, rang him last Wednesday to tell him that his services would not be required next season. He had thought his lead in the world championship this year, at present 13 points, was the "ace up his sleeve", but he found to his dismay that it amounted to nothing more than a losing hand.

He emphasised, though, that Williams's ruthless decision had only increased the determination to clinch the title that has eluded him in his previous three years at Wil-

liams. "I have had assurances from Frank that I will receive equal treatment to Jacques Villeneuve over the last three races," Hill said. "All this has done is increase my motivation to win the championship."

His answers, though, left many aspects of the events of the past week unexplained. He hinted at reasons for his dismissal that left them lingering in the air and refused to be drawn about his likely desti-



Frentzen: bewildered

nation for next season. Ferrari was ruled out yesterday by Jean Todt, the team's sporting director, and Benetton are emerging as a more likely new home, with McLaren, Jordan and Stewart Grand Prix all possibilities. "There is no danger of me being out of work," Hill said.

Predictably, but wisely, he was the soul of diplomacy, refusing to indulge in over-criticism of the man on whom he depends for the maintenance of his title challenge. He echoed the words of his manager, Michael Breen, when he insisted that money was not the reason behind the split with the team for whom he has won 20 grands prix in 64 starts.

Williams had given him an explanation, he said, but he did not want to disclose it. There was increasing speculation here yesterday, though, that Williams's courting of the German driver, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, Hill's replacement, may be linked to the prospect of BMW joining the team as an engine partner when Renault leave the sport at the end of next year.

"I am disappointed," Hill said. "I would not say I could be anything other than that. I believe I turned myself round over the winter and made myself the leading driver and my view was that the reward for winning the races I have won should have been the opportunity to drive for Williams and have the best equipment."

"I have every reason to believe that Frank and Patrick Head, the team's technical directors, were extremely happy with my driving all season. I have had many reactions from them which would suggest they were not only impressed, but also astonished, at the way I have been driving. I have won 20 races in my career here and if I

have won 23 by the time I leave, I would consider that a bloody good score."

"But at least this will open up a lot of opportunities. I started here as a test driver and I have grown in the six years I have been with the team, but now I have the opportunity to explore other teams and help develop a winning car somewhere else. I have done so much to-ing and fro-ing in the last ten days, I feel like I have been to Mars and back."

Frentzen, who looked bewildered by the attention that was lavished on him from the moment he arrived at Milan airport yesterday morning, including a German television crew that shadowed his every move, held his own press conference here an hour before Hill started talking.

He said he had only signed for Williams earlier this week but fuelled rumours that the deal had been set in motion as long as a year ago by admitting that he and Williams had maintained "close contact" since 1994, when the team owner tried to persuade him to join Williams as a replacement for Ayrton Senna after the Brazilian was killed at Imola.

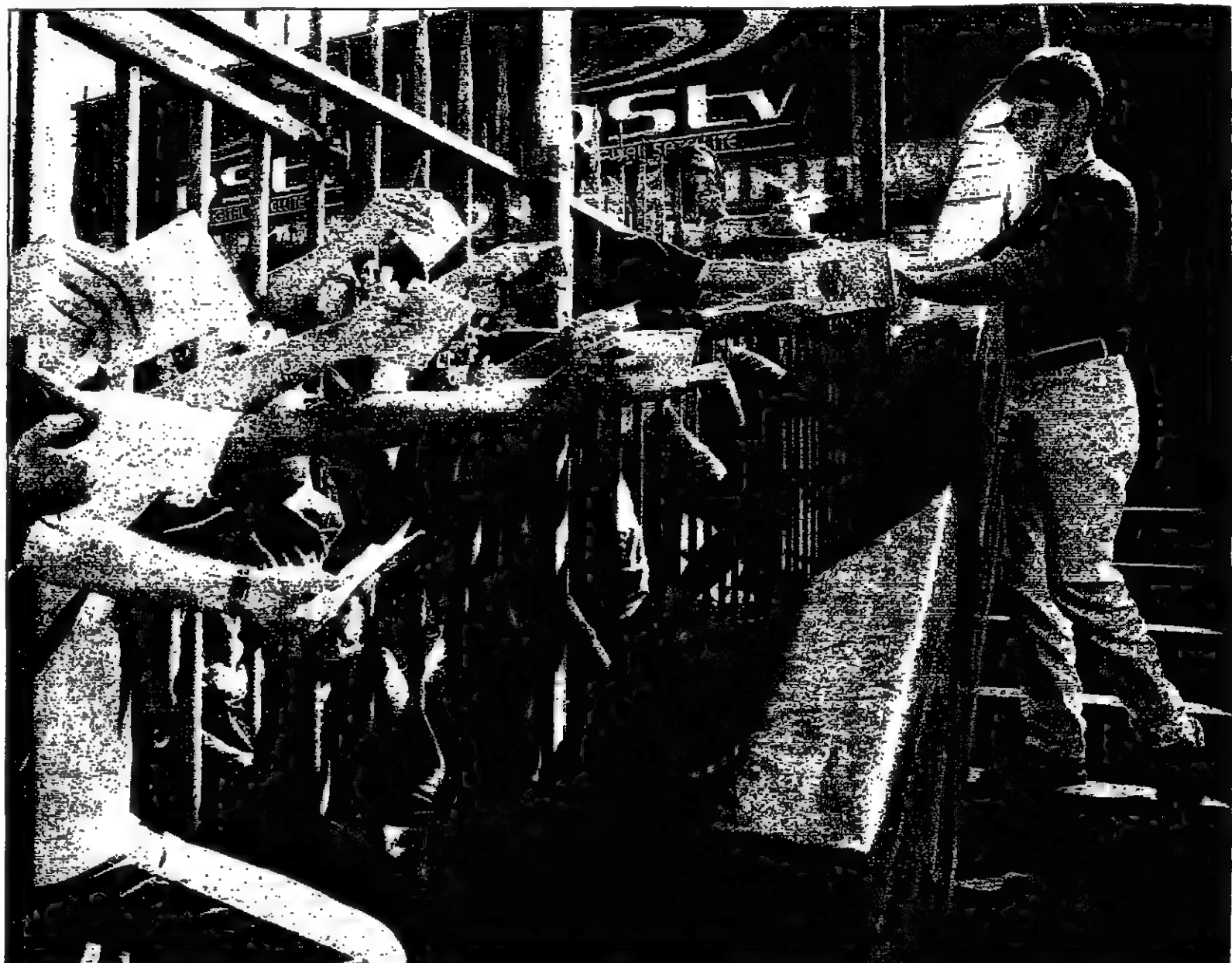
"I have been waiting for this chance for a long, long time," Frentzen said. "I think I can handle the pressure. I imagine Frank signed me because he wants me to beat Schumacher next year."

Frentzen, at last, has the opportunity to prove what the experts have always said — that he is the only man

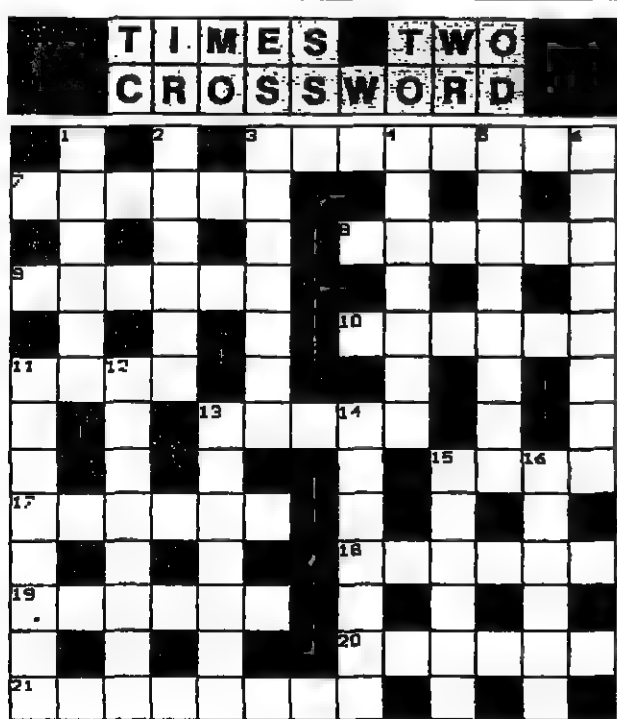
capable of going quicker than Schumacher. He was his equal in German Formula 3 and also in the Mercedes junior team, when they competed in sportscars. Five years ago, though, Schumacher's career took off and Frentzen's stagnated, meandering its way through Japanese F3000 before landing the Formula One drive he now occupies with Sauber.

Yesterday, the Italian media wanted to know everything about him, his hobbies, his interests. "I enjoy watching soccer," he said. "I am a Borussia Mönchengladbach fan, so I spend a lot of time keeping my fingers crossed."

Now that logic has let him down, for Hill, too, superstition may be the word as he contemplates his future.



Hill was in demand at Monza yesterday, when he talked about his imminent departure from Williams. Photograph: Marc Aspland



No 880

## ACROSS

- 3 Lay medical help (5,3)
- 7 A particular mil. team (6)
- 8 "John — was a citizen" (Copper) (6)
- 9 Grab: part of shirt (6)
- 10 Have esteem for (6)
- 11 Call a halt (4)
- 13 A cat: a silk fabric (5)
- 15 Add alcohol to (drink) (4)
- 17 Lighters: gets narrower (6)
- 19 Nine-day prayer cycle (6)
- 19 Commemorative tablet: tooth film (6)
- 20 Capture in snare (6)
- 21 In any place (than) (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Deeply religious (6)
- 2 (Horse) make top speed (6)
- 3 Peninsular US state (7)
- 4 Tall and too thin (7)
- 5 Class inc. newt, frog (8)
- 6 Ballet girl (Fr.) (8)
- 11 Left-handed boxer (8)
- 12 How the easily-acquired is handed (2,1,5)
- 13 Inflat great pain (on) (7)
- 14 Bad mistake (7)
- 15 Unseriousness (6)
- 16 Joseph —, Polish-born author (6)

The solution to 879 will be published Wednesday, September 11

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## England 'injured' inquiry

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THE Football Association will explore the possibility of a rule change, preventing players who withdraw from international duty from competing for up to a week after the fixture. The move comes after four players competed for their clubs three days after injury prevented them from appearing for England against Moldova.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, was said to have "raised his eyebrows" when he saw that Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler were in the starting line-up for Liverpool against Coventry on Wednesday. Steve Howey was playing for Newcastle United, and Darren Anderton for Tottenham Hotspur.

It is the case of Anderton, in particular, which has alarmed Hoddle and his backroom team. The winger withdrew from the England party with an apparently long-term injury. Yet he was straight back into Premiership action with

Tottenham. It has privately annoyed Hoddle, and he has demanded some action.

The England manager, however, realises that he can not afford to antagonise club managers just one game into his reign as national team coach, and he will adopt a gentle approach when querying the situation with Tottenham and Liverpool. A spokesman for the FA stressed that there would be no confrontation with clubs.

A Lancaster Gate insider confirmed, however, that Hoddle is determined to ensure that his future squads are not affected by injuries which are miraculously cured soon after the international. The rule change has been put on the agenda within the FA, and is likely to be discussed at the next meeting of the International Committee.

Hoddle prefers not to comment on the situation, but he made clear his position earlier in the week, when he stressed

that clubs must start working towards placing a greater importance on the international side. Ideally, he said, he wants to arrive at a position where the FA Carling Premiership puts the England team ahead of the clubs.

The FA revealed yesterday that it is unlikely to take any action over allegations made by Vinnie Jones, the Wimbledon midfielder player, that Anderton spat at him during the Premiership fixture on Wednesday evening.

A spokesman said there had been no complaints and that the incident had not been in the referee's report. The matter would be treated, he added, as a routine red card offence. Jones claimed he responded by lashing out at Anderton after he was spat upon. The Tottenham winger has said that any incident was an accident — he had no intention of spitting at Jones.

Coca-Cola Cup draw, page 41

## Atherton to lead twin winter tours

MICHAEL ATHERTON, of Lancashire, was yesterday re-appointed as England cricket captain for this winter's tours to Zimbabwe and New Zealand. If Atherton, 28, plays in all five Tests on the tours, he will start next season only one match short of the England captaincy record. Peter May led the side on 41 occasions.

"The selectors and myself are delighted Mike has accepted the offer to captain England this winter," Raymond Illingworth, chairman of the selection panel, said. Since taking over from Graham Gooch, Atherton has scored 2,892 Test runs at an average of 47.40. There seems no reason, other than back problems which afflict him from time to time, why Atherton should not, break the record against Australia next summer.

Ageless Gooch, page 40

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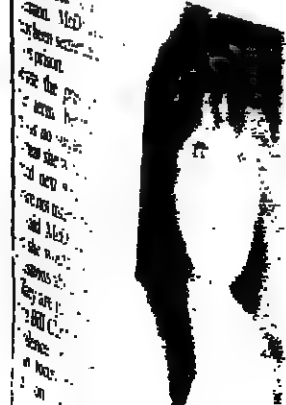
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Missile s  
Saddam's

Clinton face  
Whitewater



Disgraced



# France refuses to patrol widened Iraq no-fly zone

By BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS AND  
MICHAEL BINYON

FRANCE last night refused to help in patrolling the extended "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq but agreed to continue patrolling areas previously declared off-limit to Iraqi aircraft, as the post-Gulf War coalition showed further signs of strain.

After a meeting between Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, and President Chirac, Paris said its participation in surveillance missions in both northern and southern Iraq would continue, but that French planes would not fly over the extended exclusion zone that was established on Wednesday.

America and Britain had earlier agreed to monitor the air exclusion zones without French help, if Paris maintained its uncooperative stance towards American airstrikes in Iraq. Paris has insisted the extension of the no-fly zone to the 33rd parallel

## SPLIT ALLIES

on the outskirts of Baghdad was a "unilateral" American decision. The move has been supported by Britain. During recent days French fighters have patrolled only south of the 30th parallel, covering Kuwait airspace and an area of south Iraq.

In a statement issued after Mr Christopher's talks with his French counterpart, Hervé de Charette, France said its planes would only monitor south of the 32nd parallel, where the no-fly zone was fixed at the end of the Gulf War. Mr Christopher's failure to secure full French support for the extended no-fly zone is the latest sign of the French Government's determination to distance itself from Washington's actions in Iraq.

The French decision will take effect on Monday, September 9, the Foreign Ministry said, adding that it had received assurances from the Americans that Operation Desert Strike is over. Earlier,

Mr Christopher discussed the French position with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, during a visit to London. Speaking after his 90-minute meeting, Mr Christopher thanked Britain for its "unwavering" support, and said this underlined the extraordinary partnership between America and Britain. "We are very grateful to Prime Minister Major, Foreign Secretary Rifkind and the entire British Government."

Mr Rifkind said that President Saddam Hussein's incursion into Kurdish territory had produced a clear and unambiguous outcome. The airstrikes had shown that his behaviour had had damaging results for his regime. Mr Rifkind added: "It is crucially necessary that whenever he initiates repression or aggression that he should end up losing more than he thinks he has gained."

British officials were still optimistic last night that the revised British draft UN Security Council resolution, dropping any outright condemnation of Baghdad for the invasion of Western-protected safe area city of Arbil, would muster enough votes and would not be vetoed by Russia. They expected, however, that France was still likely to abstain.

Officials noted that for the past two years France had taken a softer line on Iraq at the United Nations, clearly believing that the situation was not comparable to 1991. However, they also saw in France's refusal to support America an attempt in Paris to establish a strong French presence in the Middle East, and a long-term calculation that this would put France in a good position to win Iraqi oil and trade contracts once the UN sanctions were lifted. With millions of pounds worth of potential deals at stake when sanctions end, France has emphasised its concern for the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Britain believes no further strikes against Iraq are likely or necessary, but everything depends on Saddam's behaviour. All the signs were he was trying to avoid confrontation with the allies.



Armed Kurdistan Democratic Party fighters keep vigil outside the parliament building in Arbil yesterday

## White House scrutinises effect of attacks on President's popularity

FROM IAN BRODIE  
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has the backing of four out of five Americans for his missile attacks on Iraq, according to a poll published yesterday. However, few expect the strikes to stop President Saddam Hussein from breaking the terms of the Gulf War ceasefire again.

The strength of support for Mr Clinton was welcomed at the White House where aides are keeping a scorecard of pluses and minuses from the President's short, sharp foray into missile diplomacy.

The poll seems to suggest that the Iraqi episode is unlikely to dent Mr Clinton's 21-point lead over Bob Dole, his Republican challenger for the presidency, and could increase it. While the Clinton camp

## US OPINION

officially disavowed that the missile strike was related to the election campaign, the brief onslaught did, of course, stifle criticism of the President as a foreign-policy lightweight who lacks military experience.

Mr Clinton's unilateral decision to "punish" Saddam pre-empted the political bombardment he would have suffered from Mr Dole and other Republicans if he had done nothing. Mr Dole was already building a case against President Clinton's implied weak leadership when he was silenced by the attack on Saddam's missile sites.

Only Ross Perot, the maverick Reform Party candidate, has criticised Mr Clinton since the raids. He complained that "war is not a place for a

politician to create a positive image and get a bump in the polls". By contrast, General Colin Powell, America's senior officer during the Gulf War and now a popular Republican, said Mr Clinton had done exactly the right thing.

Also on the plus side, Mr Clinton has commanded a bigger "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq, leaving Saddam "strategically worse off than before". True, the expanded buffer zone is about 200 miles from the fighting in northern Iraq that prompted the retaliation, but the White House still believes that it will be a lesson to Saddam.

There is no question that by moving the exclusion zone from the 32nd to the 33rd parallel, an advance of 70 miles, Mr Clinton has severely restricted the Iraqi leader's capacity to train his air force

and to manoeuvre troops into positions where they could again threaten Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

On the minus side, however, the Gulf War coalition has been weakened by Mr Clinton's decision to use force rather than to engage in haggling at the United Nations. France, a loyal participant in the no-fly missions until now, is refusing to fly in the expanded area. The United States was denied permission to fly raids from three neighbouring countries, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Jordan. Russia objected strongly to the action.

Given these negative voices, it is ridiculous for William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, to claim that the coalition has been strengthened rather than weakened by the raids.

## Juppé is ready to rock the Euro clock

By BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS AND  
ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

FRENCH and German clocks may soon be out of sync if a French plan to drop the twice-yearly changing of the clocks takes effect. But the change would bring Anglo-French time in step for the summer months.

With typical Gallic insouciance, Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, has yet to opt either for summer or winter time but he sees no point in retaining the twice-yearly ritual which means millions losing an hour's sleep each spring.

As he prepared to impose the measure on Brussels, he said: "The twice-yearly time-change is less and less understood by our fellow citizens, while providing no obvious economic advantages."

There is dismay among British companies which will count the cost in bureaucratic chaos. Technically, it could mean that the Eurostar train will take four hours to get to Paris rather than three.

Jim Rowe, of Eurostar, said: "Different time zones are particularly difficult for business people. They are already having to get a train from Waterloo at 5am to ensure they arrive in central Paris for a 9.30am meeting. Clearly if we get to a situation where there is a permanent two-hour time difference between the French and us, then it is going to be very difficult."

M Juppé's tentative plan gave fuel yesterday to Bonn's emerging suspicions about the Chirac era: the French seem no longer to be synchronising their watches with the Germans.

In practical terms a lost hour will reduce the much-trumpeted co-ordinating talks between the French and German civil services. Ministries of the two countries are supposed to hold regular consultations about European and specifically Franco-German projects. If M Juppé goes ahead with his idea to turn back the clock, then the Franco-German relationship, at least at the bureaucratic level, will suffer.

## Missile strikes dent Saddam's defences

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

### MILITARY

THE combination of American air-launched and sea-launched cruise missiles did sufficient damage to the Iraqi air defence network in southern Iraq to put it out of effective action for months, according to the assessment of satellite and aerial reconnaissance photographs.

Although the Iraqis will still have a limited capability to shoot down American, British or French aircraft patrolling the region, a successful strike would be a "matter of luck", according to Western intelligence sources. Yesterday patrols went ahead without incident, with American fighters flying in the newly expanded "no-fly" zone between the 32nd and 33rd parallels.

Pentagon experts have been examining photographic evidence of the damage achieved

by the American strikes on Tuesday and Wednesday, which involved a total of 44 air-launched cruise missiles, and sea-launched Tomahawks, fired by surface warships and one nuclear-powered submarine.

Since the 1991 Gulf War and the Tomahawk attacks carried out in 1993, the Iraqis have reconstituted the whole of the air defence network. Key elements of the national system were rebuilt at two airbases south of Baghdad. The latest cruise missile attacks were targeted on 15 air defence systems on these two bases and neighbouring sites. Western sources said there had been "satisfactory damage" to these facilities.

## Clinton faces campaign setback as Whitewater aide is put on the spot

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton faced an unexpected threat to his reelection last night after a former partner in Whitewater was ordered to tell a grand jury whether the American leader had lied under oath.

Susan McDougal, 41, who has refused repeated prosecution efforts to gain her cooperation, was given until Monday to testify about the President's role in the failed Arkansas land venture or expect a sentence of up to 18 months for contempt of court. One of three past business associates and friends of the First Family convicted on fraud and conspiracy charges in May, including her former husband, Jim McDougal, who has made a deal to assist the prosecution, McDougal has already been sentenced to two years in prison.

Despite the pressure of a further term behind bars, there was no suggestion yesterday that she would change her mind next week. "These people are not interested in the truth," said McDougal, who claimed she would never answer questions about the Clintons. "They are just interested in getting Bill Clinton."

Her silence, however, is certain to focus Republican attention on a possible

Whitewater cover-up and the issue of character at a time when Mr Clinton had been enjoying high poll ratings in the wake of the Chicago convention and the American bombing of Iraq. It also suggests that the grand jury in Little Rock has now reached the Clinton phase of its investigation. McDougal had been asked three questions, all of which related to the President, before she was led from court for refusing to answer.

McDougal said prosecutors had demanded whether Mr Clinton knew about an illegal \$300,000 (£192,000) loan made to her in 1986 and about

property in which the Whitewater corporation had an interest. Finally, she said, she had been asked: "Did William Jefferson Clinton testify truthfully at your trial?" During the past few years, both McDougals, who owned Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of Whitewater, have said they have no information that could incriminate either Mr Clinton or his wife, Hillary. And they have each accused Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, of leading a politically motivated witch hunt.

Since the start, investigators have been attempting to prove that Whitewater was in some way intended by the McDougals as a sop to compensate Mr Clinton, the then Governor of Arkansas, for political favours. They believe that co-operation by Susan McDougal, or others involved in the Arkansas of the 1980s, may be all that stands in the way of indictments. Although charges are unlikely to be brought against the President before the election, speculation continues to centre on Mrs Clinton's future.

McDougal was convicted in May of misusing the \$300,000 loan that she had borrowed from a federally backed small

investment company owned by David Hale, an Arkansas banker. Hale, the government's chief witness in the Whitewater trial, claimed he had loaned her the money under duress from Mr Clinton. But in his videotaped testimony in defence of the McDougals and Jim Guy Tucker, his successor as Arkansas Governor, Mr Clinton insisted he knew nothing of the loan.

In an interview with ABC, McDougal said she had often considered co-operating with Mr Starr. "It is tempting every time they put the carrot before my eyes," she also insisted the Clintons had never lied, but added: "I have wondered why they couldn't tell everything just out open and honest and simple and easy."

Benign cyst: A cyst on Mr Clinton's neck was removed on Wednesday in an operation that lasted about 15 minutes, the White House said. Officials said it was benign, but it would be sent for analysis. Its removal comes amid calls from Mr Clinton's Republican rival, Bob Dole, that the President release all his medical records. Mr Dole, 73, has released extensive medical records to show he is in good health. (AFP)

to damage the strategic capabilities of Mr Morris, who has already started a tactical rehabilitation of himself.

Random House, the New York publishers, announced it had bought the political consultant's personal account of his successful remoulding of Mr Clinton following the disastrous mid-term elections in 1994. It said the book would be published after the election, but has offered no insight into the unusual deal. Recognising that his value will be strongest in the next two months, Mr Morris is also said to have approached CBS about the possibility of working as a network consultant.

"You have to ask whether someone who is ethically corrupt, who cheated on his wife with a hooker, has the dignity to sit on the set with Dan Rather," said one network executive. "On the other hand, this guy was very close to the President

when he came back he sounds really mad and he said, 'Look, Dick, I would prefer you not to use this phone any more.'"

Ms Rowlands told *Hard Copy*, a tabloid show which will air throughout the United States this week.

She said Mr Clinton added: "You can understand Hillary is upset. My wife is not well. You know, with all the Whitewater trial and everything. She is not well. You know the regular lines. Do not call the private residence any more."

The latest revelations are likely to anger Mrs Clinton, who has been enjoying her own renaissance since the Chicago convention. Indeed, she had telephoned Mr Morris to console him after Ms Rowlands told her story to the *Star* newspaper last week.

Ms Rowlands' candid diary, more of which is to be published on Monday,

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## Disgraced strategist plots his comeback

By TOM RHODES

DICK MORRIS, the Democrats' campaign strategist who resigned in disgrace, was already masterminding a personal comeback yesterday as the latest consequence of his sexual exploits caused immediate political embarrassment to Hillary Clinton.

In her first television interview, Sherry Rowlands, the prostitute who sold a lurid account of her long-standing affair with Mr Morris, has revealed that she overheard a supposedly private telephone conversation between the President and his chief strategist.

During the conversation, Ms Rowlands claimed Mr Clinton stated that the numerous scandals surrounding the First Lady had caused her to suffer ill health. "Hillary answered the phone and

when he came back he sounds really mad and he said, 'Look, Dick, I would prefer you not to use this phone any more.'"

Ms Rowlands told *Hard Copy*, a tabloid show which will air throughout the United States this week.

She said Mr Clinton added: "You can understand Hillary is upset. My wife is not well. You know, with all the Whitewater trial and everything. She is not well. You know the regular lines. Do not call the private residence any more."

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Ms Rowlands' candid diary, more of which is to be published on Monday,

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# Peter Graf battles to keep Steffi out of court



Peter Graf in court as the trial started yesterday. "Our daughter in no way knew about our financial and tax affairs, she left it to me. I had the authority to sign"

## Defence team in tax-fraud case blames chaotic German system

FROM ROGER BOYES IN MANNHEIM

THE first game seemed to go to Steffi Graf's way yesterday as lawyers and her father, looking sallow after 13 months in jail, fought hard to keep her out of Germany's most controversial tax evasion case.

Instead of dragging the world's number one woman tennis player into the trial of her father, defence lawyers in effect put the whole German tax system in the dock. There were hints, too, that the trial, expected to last until January, would expose how celebrities are given political protection.

Peter Graf, a 58-year-old used car dealer, is accused of hiding his daughter's earnings by setting up a web of offshore companies. He and his financial adviser, Joachim Eckardt, could receive sentences of up to ten years in jail if found guilty. Miss Graf has already made DM20 million (£13.5 million) available to the taxman, pending the outcome of the trial.

"Our daughter in no way knew about our financial and tax affairs, she left it to me," Herr Graf said in an emotionally charged voice. It was his first public appearance since watching her win Wimbledon in 1995. "I had the authority to sign contracts, open accounts, make transfers," he said.

This version is disputed by Horst Schmitt, one of the prosecution's key witnesses. The former petrol-station manager was part of the Graf court and

remembers a family meeting — attended by Miss Graf — at which the structure of the tax-evasion companies was set out. Miss Graf denies being there.

Her absence from the trial is one of its mysteries, since it is her income that was diverted. In a recent interview, she said: "I was happy to concentrate on playing tennis and leave the financial matters to others. I can see now that was not perhaps quite right." Yet neither the prosecution nor Herr Graf's defence team has subpoenaed her. Herr Eckardt's lawyers hinted they might call her as a witness, but that was understood to be a threat to the Graf team not to shift all the blame onto Herr Eckardt.

At the heart of the trial is the complex relationship between Miss Graf and her father, who trained and, in many ways, developed her skills. His control over her was total, reports say he used to kick her if she played a poor shot. Herr Graf became addicted to tablets and drank heavily, but wife Heidi, Steffi and her brother learnt to live with his moods.

Part of Herr Graf's personal defence yesterday was that he lost control of himself. Her string of successes from 1989 propelled the family into the financial big-time, and the cream of German and international industry paid court to her. With sponsorship money flowing in and celebrity parties

to attend, Herr Graf, as he admitted yesterday, lost control.

But Professor Franz Salditt, his defence lawyer, explained that the flaws were as much to do with the system as they were personal. Why, for example, did it take the German inland revenue so long to pursue the Grafs? Herr Graf's explanation is simple: "We were promised that tax exile would not be necessary," he said yesterday.

Plainly, after German unification — when taxes began to rise steeply — politicians were nervous that Germany's superstars would move, like the three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker to Monaco. Miss Graf wanted to stay in Germany and Bonn was happy to have a German heroine remain at home.

"I gained the impression that there were many possibilities to lessen our tax burden, and most high earners were doing precisely that. I felt stupid for not undertaking something similar," Herr Graf said.

Professor Salditt said the case demonstrated the chaotic state of German tax law. The prosecutor shot back: "Don't present this case as the Government Moloch pitted against the little man... it's not like that."

The ball was knocked over the net a few more times, but day one of the trial concluded with advantage to Miss Graf.

US Open, page 41



Steffi Graf: "I was happy to concentrate on playing tennis and leave the financial matters to others"

## Post-communist women challenge office sex pests

BY ROGER BOYES

SEXUAL harassment of female employees has become a burning issue in Central Europe for the first time since the fall of communism.

The sacking of Frantisek Batrla, a 57-year-old bank manager who was accused of

making suggestive comments to women staff, has shocked Prague. Under the former regime some degree of sexual banter and supposedly playful physical contact was regarded as a normal part of office life; the footage of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, tickling his secretary before an official

meeting showed that in the Kremlin at least not much has changed. But as capitalism makes inroads into the post-communist world, so do Anglo-American guidelines on office relationships.

The case of Mr Batrla shows how quickly attitudes are shifting. When Mr Batrla's

female deputy complained in July that he had frequently fondled her and questioned her about her sex life, the bank stood solidly behind the male manager. Two other women had supported her claim. The woman was later sacked.

The bank later performed a U-turn after Mr Batrla's sec-

tary complained that he had been sexually harassing her. Worried that his image was suffering, it sacked Mr Batrla. Although women's rights campaigners in the Czech Republic claimed an important victory, the bank said it would not reinstate the dismissed woman.

## Nato 'shoot to kill' threat after Serbs block patrol

FROM REUTERS IN SARAJEVO

NATO warned Bosnian Serb leaders yesterday after a British army patrol was forced to fire into the air to disperse a hostile crowd in Serb territory.

"Yesterday the soldiers chose to fire a warning shot. The next time the consequences could be fatal," Admiral Joseph Lopez, American commander of the Nato-led peace force (for) in Bosnia, said. "Our troops will do what is necessary and prudent if they are required to protect the lives of other Nato troops," his statement said.

A British patrol was escorting two Serb police armoured vehicles in the northwest town of Banja Luka on Wednesday when it discovered unauthorised vehicles and weapons in the convoy, including an anti-aircraft gun, a multiple-barrelled rocket launcher and a 12.7 mm machinegun, Nato spokesmen said.

While the ten-member patrol moved to confiscate the

weapons and vehicles, an angry crowd of 200 civilians surrounded the British soldiers. Major Brett Boudreau, for Nato, said. When some tried to overturn one of the British patrol's Land-Rovers, the senior officer on the spot, a sergeant, fired a warning shot into the air from his pistol, dispersing the crowd, Major Boudreau said.

The British patrol drove on with the confiscated weapons, but when it stopped to regroup it was surrounded again by a crowd and Serb police cars. To defuse tensions, the confiscated weapons were taken to a Bosnian Serb army barracks in the area temporarily.

Major Boudreau said that the British eventually moved the weapons to the local Ifor base on the outskirts of Banja Luka. Major Boudreau said that the Bosnian Serb Army and a local police chief co-operated with Nato but singled out the

Serb Interior Ministry units as extremely hostile. The Ifor commander also warned Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb Acting President, of the seriousness of the incident and "insisted that she take responsibility for her police and the actions of her people".

Admiral Lopez was stern. He told Bosnian Serb leaders: "Our soldiers are trained and are authorised to shoot to kill in order to defend themselves and others. It is not our intent to harm anyone, but when threatened we will respond."

Nato officers planned to hold talks with Dragan Kijac, the Bosnian Serb Interior Minister, over the incident. Mr Kijac was reprimanded recently over police attacks on Muslims trying to return to their homes.

The confrontation in Banja Luka coincides with rising tensions across Bosnia before postwar elections are held on September 14.

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# Buthelezi apologises to ANC for years of violence

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

IN AN extraordinary submission before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the head of the Zulu-led Inkatha Freedom Party, apologised to President Mandela and other African National Congress leaders on behalf of his party, but he denied any personal role in the political violence of the apartheid era.

"From my part I wish to say that I am sorry for any hurt I have caused the ANC leadership," Chief Buthelezi, the Home Affairs Minister, told Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission's chairman, and his seven-member panel. During his submission, Chief Buthelezi sharply rebuked the former white Government and his ANC rivals, who were accused of plotting to assassinate him in 1987.

Chief Buthelezi denied any personal role in the bloody confrontation between rival Inkatha and ANC supporters that has left 15,000 dead in KwaZulu/Natal since the mid-1980s. However, he apologised for the fact that Inkatha members had been drawn into the conflict and acknowledged that "the buck stops right in front of me". He said: "I know that because we are human beings, and there-

fore sinners, that we shall still hurt each other even tomorrow. I nevertheless apologise for the past hurts and I do so on behalf of my followers."

Inkatha has been one of the fiercest opponents of the Truth Commission and the appearance yesterday of its leader and his apology was something of a coup for Archbishop Tutu. In an apparent snide reference to the Anglican cleric, a figurehead in the struggle against apartheid, Chief Buthelezi said the country needed apologies from "some of South Africa's more political clergy".

The submissions from South African parties mark



Archbishop Tutu: head of the truth commission

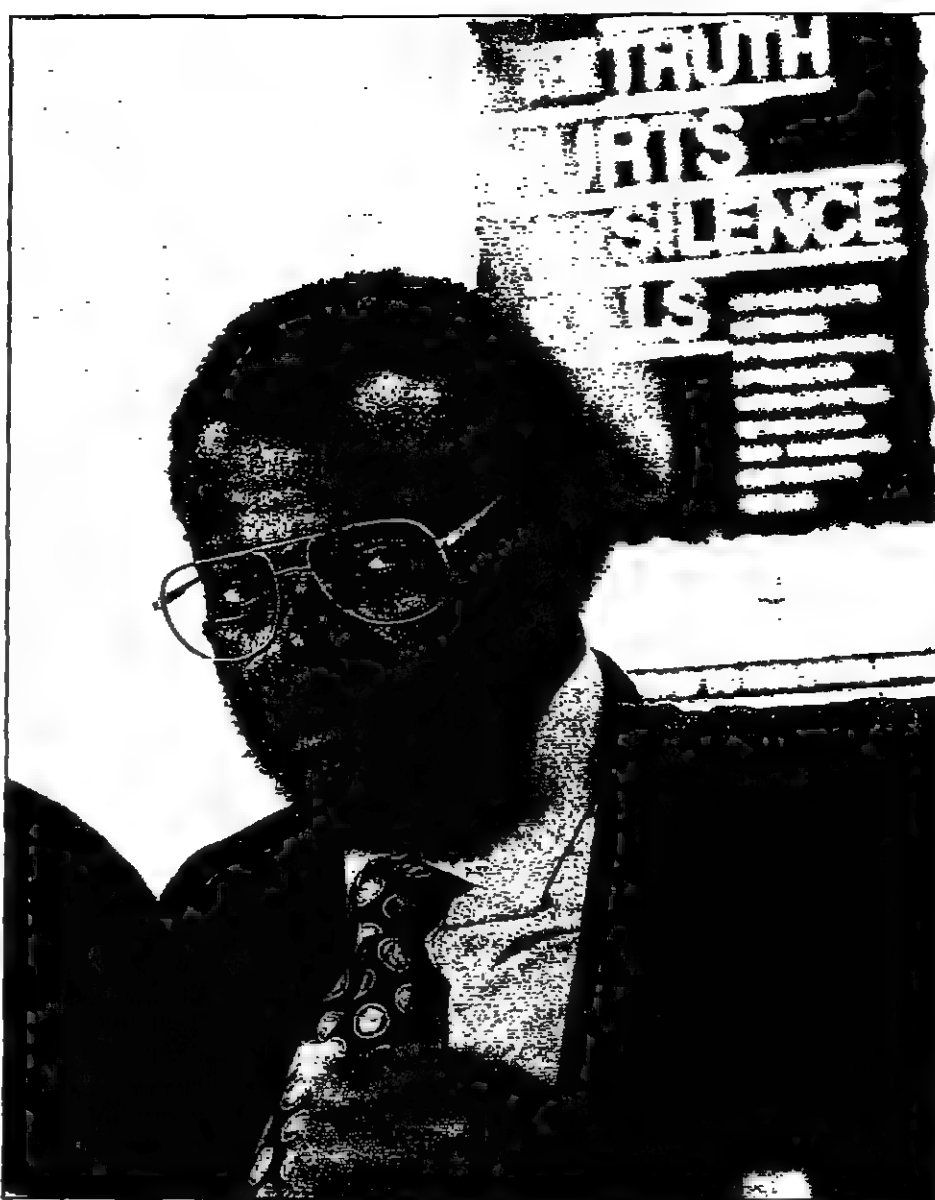
the second phase of the work of the truth commission, which aims to confront the country's troubled past and to heal the divisions by trying to detail and determine responsibility for atrocities committed during the apartheid era. Frank Mdalose, the Inkatha Chairman and Premier of KwaZulu/Natal, told the commission about ANC plots to assassinate Chief Buthelezi and to wipe out Inkatha.

Referring to a "top secret" document that detailed a 1987 plot by the ANC to assassinate Chief Buthelezi, the party's submission said that a religious leader, who disclosed the details and was later assassinated, had said the ANC hoped that "eliminating" Chief Buthelezi would deal a death blow to Inkatha. The chief was ruler of the KwaZulu homeland at that time. The party's submission said that in a letter dated March 1986 the ANC had ordered one of its fighters to carry out the assassination. Inkatha said its submission provided "hard facts" that rebutted ANC denials of plans to kill Chief Buthelezi, and the party called on the commission to use its powers to discover further details of the plot. The Inkatha submission also accused the ANC of

orchestrating a war against its supporters and killing 420 members since the start of last year alone.

Inkatha's submission followed presentations last month by the ANC and National Party about their role in the apartheid era, during which apologies were offered. About 1,000 additional policemen were deployed in Johannesburg and Soweto yesterday to intensify the war against crime and allay growing public anxiety.

The deployment coincided with the publication of a survey that showed that most South Africans do not believe they are safe from crime. The poll found that 71.4 per cent of respondents wanted capital punishment reinstated, compared with 62 per cent last year. **Widow's words:** Gracia Machel, the widow of President Machel of Mozambique, has spoken publicly for the first time about her relationship with Mr Mandela and said there is no prospect of her marrying him. Mrs Machel, 50, who speaks to Mr Mandela twice a day by phone, said she will not marry him despite the warmth of her feelings. "I belong to Mozambique. I will always be the wife of Samora Machel."



Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi during his submission yesterday to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He took the opportunity to rebuke his ANC rivals

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Sex-ring suspect arrested

Brussels: Police made their tenth arrest in Belgium's paedophile ring yesterday as the country prepared for the burial of two teenage victims. Annie Bouty, a companion of Jean-Michel Nihoul, who has been charged with criminal association with Marc Dutroux, was arrested after questioning in the Neuchâteau headquarters of the the paedophile inquiry. (Reuters)

## Election patrol

Dhaka: Bangladeshi soldiers patrolled districts where voting was taking place to fill 15 seats left vacant after the parliamentary elections. Five people died in the campaign violence last week. (AP)

## Peking in dock

Peking: A court has agreed to hear an action by Liu Nianchun, the veteran dissident, accusing Peking of illegal imprisonment, but lawyers are under pressure not to take his case. (Reuters)

## Copt beheaded

Milaya, Egypt: Islamic militants in a Minya province village shot dead Asham Nabi Tawfik, 45, a Coptic Christian municipal worker, hacked off his head and escaped with it, police said. (AFP)

## Rao questioned

Delhi: Federal police for the first time questioned P.V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister, about allegations that he bribed politicians to win support for his Government. (AP)

## Zafy impeached

Antananarivo: The President of Madagascar, Albert Zafy, agreed to step down after the High Constitutional Court confirmed his impeachment. The Prime Minister will take over his duties. (Reuters)

## Scant reward

Delhi: More than 1,000 teachers walked naked, or wearing only underwear or loincloths, through the streets here, protesting that the Government has not paid them for years. There were no arrests. (AP)

## Cambodia troops foster Khmer Rouge feud

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN ARANYAPRATHET, THAILAND

THE first serious armed clash between Khmer Rouge guerrillas loyal to Pol Pot, their murderous leader, and break-away rebel fighters has flared 100 miles northeast of this Thailand-Cambodia frontier town with more than 400 refugees fleeing into Cambodia.

The battle, involving two artillery strikes and a ground attack, occurred at the Khmer Rouge village of Chhup Koki, in wooded territory. Pol Pot guerrillas are in control of the village. The Khmer Rouge dissidents defending the jungle base received unprecedented help as the Government sent up to 700 troops to their rescue.

General Nheuk Bunthay, deputy chief of staff for the

Government's forces, said the troops were sent to help the dissidents to keep control of Chhup Koki, in the Banteay Meanchey province. The joint operation between former enemies underscored the importance that the Phnom Penh Government is putting on peace negotiations with the dissidents, hoping to cement a split among the guerrillas and hasten an end to civil war.

The reinforcements were sent as Leng Sary, the dissident leader, met Cambodian Co-Ministers of Defence in Thailand in a new round of peace negotiations. Participants described them as successful.

The ministers discussed the prospects of a royal pardon for the dissident leader and the

integration of his breakaway group. "We have held frank discussions in a good and sincere atmosphere. We agreed to consider amnesty for him [Leng Sary]," Tea Banh, a minister, said yesterday.

Leng Sary heads the faction that last month split from the Maoist Khmer Rouge guerrilla group led by Pol Pot. The meeting was his first direct contact with senior Cambodian leaders. Speculation has been growing that Pol Pot, 69, under whose rule a million people were killed in Cambodia, may have died, but Khmer Rouge sources insist this is not the case.

At the same time, a rebel Khmer Rouge commander, Vong Nari, who was pushed with 100 of his fighters into

Thai territory, said he saw Pol Pot just a month ago at the northern Khmer Rouge headquarters at Anlong Veng.

Mr Vong said that 50 of his men were still in Cambodia guarding a weapons cache that Thai troops protecting the border were not permitted to take into Thailand.

Mr Vong said that in mid-August, after hearing that guerrillas loyal to Leng Sary had led a revolt against the Khmer Rouge, he had led his men in driving out the Khmer Rouge commander in Chhup Koki. So Hong, Pol Pot's nephew.

He said So Hong had fled to Anlong Veng, but in the past few days had returned with a force of 400 fighters who

attacked under two artillery barrages of 15 and 40 minutes and driven Mr Vong's forces out with 49 families. The UNHCR representative on the border was at the site of the improvised refugee camp yesterday assessing their needs.

Mr Vong said he knew that 90 per cent of other Khmer Rouge wanted to join the rebels, and suggested that Pol Pot himself was isolated.

Pol Pot's top military commander, the feared Ta Mok, had been cut off by the earlier revolt and was now desperately trying to reach Anlong Veng to save off any further defections. Ta Mok, known in Cambodia as "The Butcher", is a one-legged general who is probably the most feared of all the Khmer Rouge.

## Subway worker tells of Tokyo gas attack

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

SHOKO ASAHARA, the Japanese doomsday cult leader, sat impassively yesterday through his first courtroom encounter with witnesses to last year's poison gas attack on the Tokyo subway.

Mr Asahara, 41, accused of ordering disciples of his Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth Sect) to release the nerve gas sarin on rush-hour subway trains in March 1995, showed no emotion as a subway worker described the attack, which killed 11 people and made 5,500 ill. As on six previous occasions, he refused to enter a plea on any of the 17 murder, attempted murder and weapons and drug production charges he faces.

The subway employee, Toshiaki Toyoda, told the district court here of the frantic morning when two of his co-workers were killed in the main attack on Kasumigaseki subway station. He and co-workers, Kazumasa Takahashi and Tsuneo Hishinuma, who both later died, struggled to remove sarin-filled plastic bags from subway carriages. "Mr Takahashi lay there with his eyes open but gave no response when I called him," said Mr Toyoda.

Mr Toyoda wrapped the plastic bags in newspapers and then passed out. He said that he later spent six weeks in hospital in serious condition.

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# Why Tony chose the wrong pub.

An aspiring Prime Minister should be seen enjoying a drink on Albert Square not in Coronation Street says **Candida Crewe**, who prefers *EastEnders*

Something badly rankled when Tony Blair popped in for a pint at the Rovers Return last week. In fact, I took so much umbrage he nearly lost my vote. That single misjudgment shook my loyalties almost as much as some of his flimsier policies. He chose the wrong pub.

If he knew anything about luring the younger voter, it would have been the Queen Vic that he patronised. While the OAP vote may be with Coronation Street, the all-important youth vote is firmly in the *EastEnders* camp. I may not be subscriber-to-Vox hip, but I'm (relatively) youthful and I'm a dedicated fan of all that goes on in Albert Square. In my book, Blair committed a terrible faux pas when he dropped into the Rovers Return. Coronation Street is old hat; *EastEnders* is where it's at.

The world divides into those deranged, sad people who watch *Neighbours*; those older, staid, cosier folk who favour "the Street"; a few who go in for the more implausible dead-bodies-buried-in-the-garden storylines characteristic of *Brookside*; and the altogether more enlightened millions who tune into *EastEnders*.

Myself, I might well have been among that completely presumed band — those who are too snooty by half to think of ever watching any soap, let alone getting hooked on one. I will admit that it was the category I used to slot into. Television was for current affairs, documentaries and the occasional well-chosen drama. Soaps were down there with that Saturday evening neverland of game shows and pet programmes presented by earnestly smiling, bearded people.

But while I always presumed that watching *Coronation Street* was the television equivalent of drinking Horlicks, I decided to give *EastEnders* a go when it was launched with such a flourish more than 11 years ago. I stuck with it in a noncommittal sort of way but drifted when key characters such as Angie and Den left the series.

A few years later I found myself with a fellow whose work occasionally took him away for weeks at a time. Unfortunately his trips were to those spots of which there were very few left in the world, completely wanting in telecommunications networks, namely the outer reaches of the Russian Federation and the Caucasus. I became lonely. On a

secret vice. Friends were still in the snoots camp — or so I thought — and, although I carried on watching, I kept my mouth shut about it. Soon afterwards I discovered that a clever novelist friend, who is grumpy and cool, comes from Bermondsey and lives in Notting Hill, was moonlighting as a scriptwriter for *EastEnders*. I was wide-eyed with wonder. What an enviable job! I fired questions at him and, for the first time, I felt I could come out and tell someone how brilliant I thought it was. Then I dropped in on another friend, who also lives in a fashionable part of London and has a manner that suggests she's above such things as soap operas. I caught her in the middle of watching some riveting intrigue on that night's episode (which

I'd carefully set to tape before I'd gone out). She came clean.

Then other improbable viewers began to squirm out of the woodwork. Rumour had it that the Princess of Wales, Anthony Hopkins and Ian McKellen were fans.

More recently, a trendy young film director said that any EE script beat the hell out of the one for Bertolucci's new film *Stealing Beauty*, and a few days ago playwright Jonathan (The Beautiful Thing) Harvey said the production office to congratulate it on last week's Blackpool episode.

Why is *EastEnders* so good? Many of its fans have never watched an episode of *Coronation Street* in their lives. For me, the air it had about it was always too cosy and old-fashioned, somehow, to win me over. That view may be doing the longest-running soap a terrible injustice. For all I know it may now be full of groovy and sexy characters going about all manner

of groovy and sexy pursuits. But the prejudice of the twenty and thirtysomethings perhaps arises from those strange black-and-white clips, which occasionally appear on telly, of episodes past and that image of a boot-faced Ena Sharples in her curlers which, though she left the Street long ago, is curiously persistent.

I have the impression, rightly or wrongly, that *EastEnders* is altogether more accessible, up-to-date, and on-the-ball. So, they say, is *Brookside*. But *Brookside* does tend to go in for storylines that are just too fanciful, especially if the reason you watch a soap is, as I do, to revel in the ordinary. Aliens and anything supernatural are a strict no-go area. Didn't I read some-

where that *Brookside* dabbled in a bit of that recently? We have other series to fulfil those needs. OK, so in *EastEnders* there is 15-year-old Sarah, who has come over all Christian, which is made out to be pretty odd, but she hasn't joined the Moonies or some other weird Californian sect. That would be pushing our credulity too far.

Luckily, *EastEnders* is more earthy, with the sense steadfastly to stick to the mundane factors of real life, which is what it is there for and what it does best. Marital strife, bawdy adolescents, infidelity, drug-dealing, unwanted pregnancies, bereavement, AIDS, job insecurity, homosexuality (even if last week the powers that be at the BBC, in an extraordinarily misguided

and patronising move, lopped seconds off a gay kiss), you name it, it's all there. But, perhaps more important than any of this, they manage to make the characters appealing. Unlike those in *Friends* (my other current obsession), they aren't all gratuitously likeable, sexy and attractive.

And yet somehow they do all arouse a basic desire in us to find out what happens to them — which, presumably, is what a successful soap is all about, what keeps us tuning in three times a week (four times during the Olympics, oh joy!), Ian Beale, for example, is the perfect embodiment of

someone who is so pompous and so boring that he is fascinating. He is depicted in such a way that the viewer can't help but be on his side, willing him to discover the truth about his errant wife. Similarly, Ricky is so stupid that one can only marvel, but he is all the same endearing enough to make one bemoan his — with any luck only temporary — absence from the series.

I suppose this is all part of some special, secret *EastEnders* formula, which is hard to define but which makes it so irresistible, even to some viewers who spurn its rivals and yet more, myself included, who might otherwise be snooty and among the first to dismiss it all as lowbrow.



Tony Blair should have chosen his pub more carefully: which soap opera street you drink on can have a profound effect at the polls



Tiffany and Sam continue the Queen Vic tradition

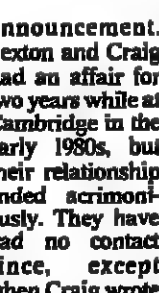
## Jason Cowley and Dalya Alberge find the literati chasing their tails

There has been only one topic of conversation in the louche salons of literary London in recent weeks: A Vicious Circle, Amanda Craig's devastating portrait of the rivalries and jealousies of some of the country's leading literary figures. Proof copies of the novel have been furiously changing hands as writers search for themselves among its pages and diarists seek to unmask the real faces behind Craig's spiky archetypes.

Loosely modelled on Balzac's great novel of 19th-century literary Paris, *Lost Illusions*, the roman à clef concerns the struggles of two women: Mary, a poor, young Irish autodidact, and Amelia, the glamorous daughter of a newspaper tycoon. Both fall in love with Paul Pinsent, ruthless but stylish literary journalist.

What has added to the intrigue is that Hamish Hamilton, an imprint of Penguin, this week suspended publication of the book after the critic David Sexton apparently recognised aspects of himself in the portraits of Pinsent. Whether he took offence at the jokes about Pinsent's basin-like haircut or to his wild misogyny is open to question, since he left the country shortly before the Penguin

## Power of the poison pen



Sexton: Caustic

announcement. Sexton and Craig had an affair for two years while at Cambridge in the early 1980s, but their relationship ended acrimoniously. They have had no contact since, except when Craig wrote to Sexton in 1988 — after both parties had married — suggesting a reconciliation. But she was rebuffed. She later sent him a postcard expressing her disappointment at his behaviour (friends of Sexton say she told him "to go on festering"). It is thought that Sexton dies the postcard as evidence of Craig nurturing a vendetta against him.

He certainly seems unusually interested in her. In 1994, for instance, he used his column in *The Times Literary Supplement* to imply she reviewed books she hadn't read.

Craig, who has agreed to



Pinsent: Caustic

rewrite parts of the book, has told friends that there are similarities between Sexton and Pinsent. Both went to grammar school and Cambridge; both are passionate Nabokovians and have had difficult relationships with women, and both are notoriously caustic critics. Yet Craig scorns the idea that she has a grudge against Sexton, describing him to friends as "pompous and dismayingly vain".

What is most amusing — and best — about the feud is what is most unexpected. For who would have thought that Sexton, whose reviews are among the most ironic and heartless in London, should have suffered such a calamitous failure in humour as soon as the tables were turned on him?

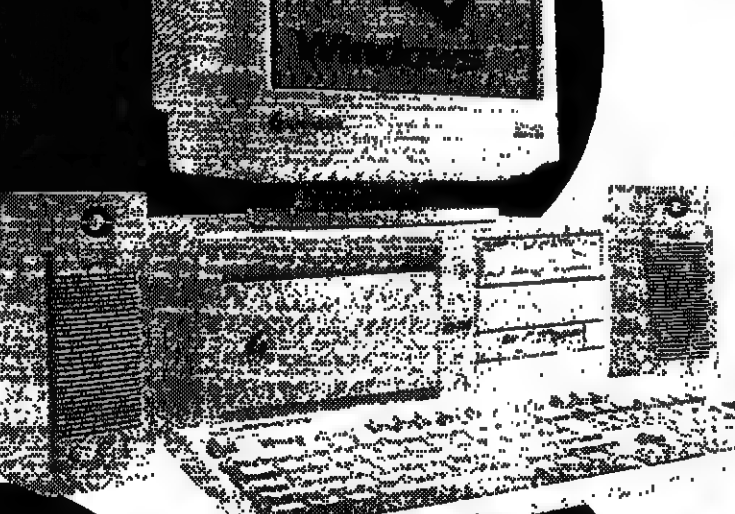
Legal action against works of fiction are comparatively

rare, but just occasionally characters and events seem a bit too close for comfort. Earlier this year Penguin published *New Boy*, William Sutcliffe's story of homosexuality in a boys' public school. It became the focus of attention when teachers and pupils at Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys in Hertfordshire felt that Sutcliffe — one of their old boys — was describing their institution. The publishers agreed to rename one dubious character in any reprint.

Paul Watkins offended one of his fellow Old Etonians by using his name for an unsavoury character in his memoirs of his school days, *Stand Before Your God*. The case was settled when his publisher paid out costs and made a public apology.

While Craig does not expect Sexton to resort to litigation, it is unlikely that *A Vicious Circle* will be published this year. "The matter is now in the hands of our lawyers," says Louisa Symington, publicity director of Hamish Hamilton. "The novel was due to have been published in December but won't appear now." But Craig may yet emerge triumphant, for she adds: "We don't publish much in December anyway, so they don't mean much."

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# The Gunpowder Plot, a passion for Heat and a hatred of fire

Lady Antonia Fraser explains why she finds Bonfire Night a deeply unpleasant spectacle

There was never a guy on Bonfire Night for the six children of Lady Antonia Fraser. "There is something deeply unpleasant about it, don't you think? Catholic families don't burn guys, if they know anything about November 5. If burning books leads to burning human beings, what does burning effigies lead to?"

Four years ago, when she said her next book would be about the Gunpowder Plot, I said: "But there's no love interest." She replied: "I will find one. Trust me." I could not imagine the historian of royal romance and scandal (*Mary Queen of Scots*, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*) toiling over the shadowy lives of Guy Fawkes and his fellow plotters, cloaked in darkness and doubt, without a glimmer of discernible sex. "But there is spiritual love," she ventures — among noble ladies such as Eliza Vaux, who hid priests in their stately piles. She visited every priest-hole and reports that the trouble with crawling into them is how to get out again. "But I am no stranger to priest-holes. When I was seven, during the war, my brother Thomas and I were evacuated to a house called Water Eaton Manor, which had a priest-hole. I found them absolutely riveting. In one, a priest survived for a fortnight on two biscuits and a jar of quince jelly, which the lady of the manor happened to be carrying when she bundled him in."

"It is a very vivid thought. Imagine, Harold and I could be sitting over breakfast and have to retreat with only a pot of Cooper's Oxford marmalade to survive on."

Bringing history into contemporary focus is her speciality. Four years on, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* still sells. A new edition will join in bookshops alongside *The Gunpowder Plot*. It will also join, since the Pakenham family is so productive, with *Perfect Happiness*, her sister Rachel Billington's sequel to *Emma*. Also with *The Gathering Bunker*, a collection of golfing stories by her youngest brother Kevin, a City investment manager.

When not writing, the Pakenhams are celebrating their own longevity, with much to celebrate. After last year's multiple parties for Lord Longford's (Daddy's) 90th birthday, last weekend it was the turn of the matriarch — Elizabeth Longford, who also turned 90. The entire clan, including seven of the great-grandchildren, gathered on the lawn at Bernhurst, where Lady Longford bedecked herself with all her presents, including at least ten silk scarves and a pair of cyclamen pink baller shoes.

Her eldest daughter gave her Chanel No 5, the scent she recalls — "my Proustian memory" — wafting over her in childhood.

*The Gunpowder Plot* has been highly praised even by academic historians customarily snuffy about "popular" history, for its scholarship combined with galloping narrative excitement. The consensus is that it reads like a thriller. The author, as former chairman of the Crime Writers' Association, was even more gratified to hear that John le Carré enjoyed it.

It is not often that a book's dedicatees get reviewed, but critics remarked on "Edward, who would have defended them, Lucy who would have hidden them, and Paloma who would have succoured them in exile." All three are her children-in-law: Edward Fitzgerald (husband to Rebecca) the barrister, Lucy Roper-Curzon (wife to Benji) "a descendant of the Ropers, which means she has recusant blood and my grandchildren are connected with the plot", and Paloma (wife to Damian) art museum curator in Mexico, "who is about to produce my first Anglo-Mexican grandchild".

Now 64, and a grandmother nine times, the public Antonia Fraser remains a glowing ornament at social and literary gatherings, where her wit has an epigrammatic Wildean flavour: she once told Robin Day he ought to be ennobled, so that he could become "Lord Day of

she carries on smiling her Gioconda smile, a peach-complexioned, Junoesque figure majestically posed by a vase of lilies, with champagne glass in hand. The private lady is an industrious student who beavers away in libraries and delivers her book reviews on time. She is the reverse of the contemporary woman writer, chattily discovered at the kitchen table. Nobody has ever found Antonia Fraser in her kitchen; some wonder whether she has a kitchen at all. And if life ever became a vale of tears, not even her closest friends would be privy to confidences; her confessions are for the confessional.

However, she does afford enticing glimpses of the domestic scene chez Pinter. "When I got home from mummy's 90th, Harold was still out playing cricket. I could have read Michael Holroyd's *Augustus John*, which I am enjoying, but instead treated myself to three hours of *Heat* on video. So when Harold came home, I was far away with Pacino and De Niro." Normally, most afternoons involve a game of tennis with

Harold at the Vanderbilt, for which she wears a sort of blue gymslip, and her hair in an Alice band so there is never a golden curl out of place. But Mr Pinter is currently incarcerated in a Catholic church hall in Chiswick, directing rehearsals of his new play *Ashes to Ashes*, which opens next Thursday at the Circle, the Royal Court in exile.

She was off to speak in Tunbridge Wells, taking her favourite relaxation book, *Lonesome Doves* by Larry McMurtry, "which draws me

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



into the world of the Wild West, the last cowboys, and Indians, and cowpunching".

Her researches into the extent of the Catholic oppression, and the persecution of priests, at the turn of the 17th century, were a shock even to her. Most of us remember Elizabeth I's "I will not make windows into men's souls". "Queen Elizabeth was very tolerant up to a point, as well she might be, having been born a Catholic. But after all, she ordered the execution of Mary Queen of Scots." In 1613, she records, a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons to compel Catholics to wear a red hat or pard-coloured stockings, like clowns. "It did not succeed, but it reminds us that we shouldn't go about complacently saying we've always been this wonderfully tolerant country."

Only once does the author admit to a personal sense of affront at the Bonfire Night celebrations in Lewes: she is "made uneasy by the sight of the words 'No Popery' on a banner slung across an English street, let alone the burning of a Pope — any Pope — in effigy". As an historian she had written dispassionately, but could not resist commenting on this contemporary ritual. "Even as a child, when I

knew nothing about the Catholic side," (she was a Protestant until converting in her teens, shortly after her mother did) "I thought all burning of human bodies in effigy disgusting. As I don't believe in reincarnation, I can't claim that I was once burnt as a witch. But I have an innate sense of revulsion about destruction by fire."

The grisly details of hanging, drawing and quartering, and the boiling of the heads which turned black are gruesome, and the evidence of Guy Fawkes's torture quite poignant. "Torture got worse in the 16th century, probably introduced by Thomas Cromwell who, when he went abroad, found this wonderful new method of making people behave better. It's against common law, so it has to be done on the law of prerogative. That letter of James which authorises them to start with gentler tortures and proceed to worse and adds 'God speed you in your good work' is pretty awful."

"I think James was clever — as so few of the Stuarts were — essentially a politician and a survivor, and survivors are never incredibly pleasant."

I was struck by the way the crowds would have conversations with the condemned men whose hanging they had come to watch. "Well, it was the letters page of the newspapers for them. There were no newspapers, or television, or votes at elections for ordinary people. The only place they could have their say was at public spectacles like hangings." In another graphic moment she notes that throughout the trial of the eight

surviving conspirators, the defendants were "taking tobacco, as if hanging were no trouble to them", which must have enraged King James, who had just published *A Counterblaste to Tobacco* — "a custom hateful to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs." "And there are people today," as Antonia says, "who would think it worse to be smoking than to try to blow up the House of Lords."

As Harold read the book, he kept saying: "This would make a very good film." The producer Barry Isaacson thought so too, and William Boyd is now writing the script. "It will be a baddie buddy movie," she says, "and tremendously exciting. The hiding places are still there and so are the wonderful houses — Harrowden, Holbeach, Baddesley Clinton, one of the most romantic houses I know." If asked for her view on casting she would suggest Daniel Day-Lewis for Robert Catesby, the dashing, glamorous plotter-in-chief, Sean Connery for Father Garnet, the martyred priest, and Stephen Rea as Guido Fawkes.

As for her next subject, she is returning to romantic love and scandalous intrigue with Marie Antoinette, while her daughter Flora, fresh from her success with Caroline of Brunswick, tackles the daughters of George III. (*Mater pulchra, filia pulchrior*, murmurs the mother graciously.) Some day, someone will undertake an even more remarkable and complex biography of the women of the Pakenham dynasty, all born with a silver pen in their hands. "Perhaps a grandchild of mine will write it," she said. "There are plenty of them. Who knows?"

● The Gunpowder Plot, Wiedenfeld, £20.

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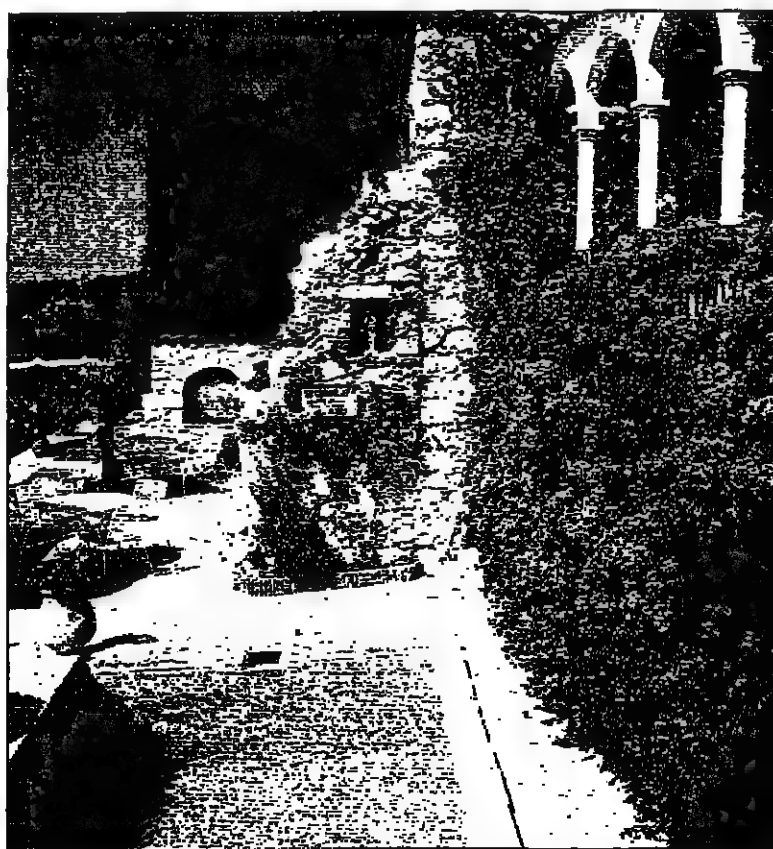
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# Is Blair betraying the Celts?

Labour's devolution plans are a mess, says Magnus Linklater

Just as Tony Blair's strategy seemed to be well on course, with scarcely a wobble in the opinion polls, trouble is threatening from the most unexpected quarter. A warning light has come on in the election cockpit, and despite some routine adjustment, it continues to flash alarmingly. It has nothing, this time, to do with tax policy or public spending. Instead it is about something that must cause Mr Blair enormous concern — the alienation of his supporters in two parts of the United Kingdom which his spin-doctors must have marked down as rock solid. First in Scotland, now in Wales, there are serious signs of revolt.

The row over Labour's plans, announced last weekend, for a double referendum on the creation of a Scottish parliament has been hugely embarrassing. It has exposed an inept Opposition performance, and a leadership increasingly out of touch with popular opinion. It suggests that Labour is doing what should by most political rules be impossible: losing ground to a deeply unpopular Government on an argument which has hitherto enjoyed massive support. In Wales, disaffection has reached such a pitch that one MP has announced he will actually campaign against a Welsh assembly, one of the party's central commitments.

Some measure of that achievement can be judged from an opinion poll in Scotland on Monday, which showed Labour's lead down by nine points, all the ground being ceded to the great enemy, the Scottish National Party. Just as important has been the reaction of the media — newspapers and television alike — which have traditionally been sympathetic to Labour's cause. Words like "farce", "debacle", "ridicule", "collapse", "silly" and "incompetent" have been the stuff of headlines. *The Scotsman* called it "a piteous spectacle"; the *Herald* concluded that the party was gambling with the political future of the country, and that if it lost, "Labour will not be forgiven". It is a long time since we have seen language as strong as this in the Scottish press, and for a party which prides itself on its deft handling of the media, it has been a remarkable setback.

At least as interesting is the way these rows on the Celtic fringe have been perceived from London. With barely an exception, they have been ignored. In the case of Wales, where the issue is the imposition of proportional representation against the wishes of Labour's old guard, the rebellion of a left-wing MP, Llew Smith, supported by Allan Rogers and Denzil Davies, is seen as a minor infraction. In Scotland, the complex device of a double referendum, the one off, a threatened revolution in the party has actually been described by Mr Blair as a "mature" decision, a neat solution to a tricky problem. The Shadow Secretary, George Robertson, has been congratulated for his

pragmatic handling of it, and the belief is that the objections, from predictable sources, will soon die down.

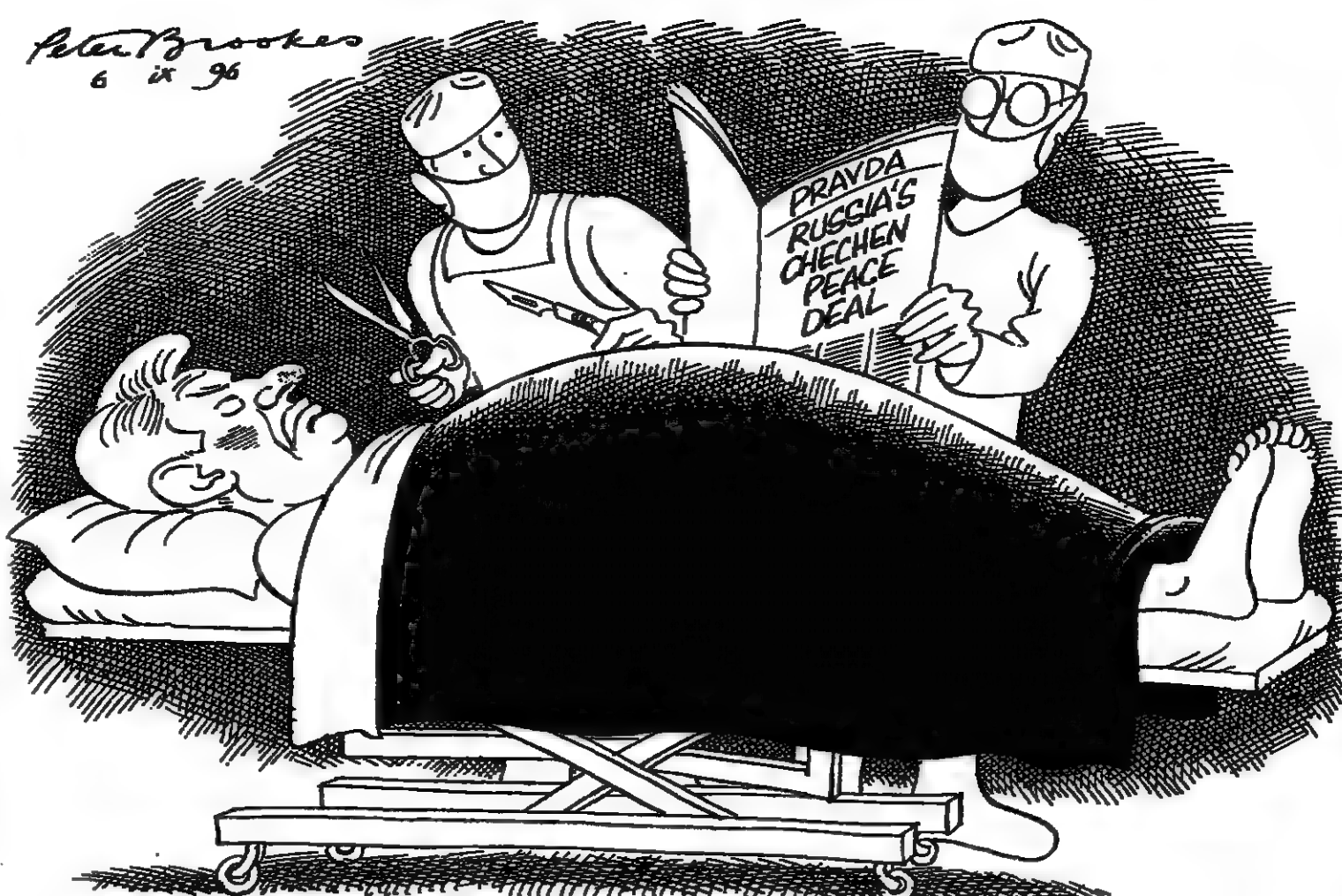
Don't count on it. The danger for Mr Blair is not so much the immediate impact of the decision in Scotland as the way it was reached. It has been seen as the work of an arrogant and remote party leadership in London which sees devolution as more trouble than it is worth, and which relies on its henchmen to devise various means of postponing it. However unfair that view may be — and Mr Robertson becomes exceedingly irritated every time it is suggested — impressions, as any reputable spin-doctor will testify, are what count.

The original decision, announced in June, to hold a referendum on a Scottish parliament, was bad enough. It aroused suspicion because Labour had always argued strenuously that it was unnecessary; it was seen as emanating from London and it caught the local party unawares; having two questions, one on the principle of a parliament, one on its tax-raising powers, was interpreted as a device to ensure that a future parliament would be fiscally emasculated.

There are signs of revolt in Scotland and Wales

And the whole approach meant that difficult questions, on taxation and on relations with Westminster, could be postponed. It was seen, in short, as a delaying tactic. Despite the protests, the proposals were warmly endorsed by the party leaders as principled and practical. Mr Robertson predicted an overwhelming victory when they were presented to the party's executive, and even suggested that it was, for him, as crucial a decision as John Smith's "one man one vote". The script, however, failed, as so often on these occasions, to turn out the right way. As the vote approached last weekend, defeat began to seem a real possibility. Opponents of the two-question referendum refused to back down. A frantic last-minute compromise produced what frantic last-minute compromises so often do, a muddle. There will, it seems, be not one but two referendums. The first will ask the two questions about the principle and about tax; but just in case voters still have doubts, they will be given a second chance to take a view. As a parliament is actually set up, they will be asked again if they really mean it to have tax-raising powers. Already it's being called the "are you sure you're sure?" vote. It is as insulting as it is unnecessary.

The net effect of these two rows is to undermine the confidence of Labour supporters just when it should be unassailable. A party whose main campaigning theme in Wales and Scotland has been the proposition that only Labour can deliver self-government has introduced the dangerous virus of doubt. And for leadership that has placed unity and discipline at the centre of its strategy, it suggests that these qualities are in short supply. Time, perhaps, for the pilot to attend to the controls.



"MUST BE A CHANGE OF HEART..."

## Hiding from humanity

There's nowt so queer as folk. But when the queerness turns into something truly terrible, we wonder yet again that human beings can do things that we believed could not be done.

Imagine it is 1966, just 30 years ago. The war in Vietnam was raging, the Berlin Wall had not long been put up, drugs were just about to start their rampant progress. Albert Speer had got out of prison, the Moors murders were in everyone's mind, Lowry had had his first big exhibition. Harold Wilson was Prime Minister, Lurca's tapestries were seen in Britain for the first time, we had won the World Cup and everyone was in love with Twiggy.

And then there was Desmond Lockwood. And then there was Karen Morgan. I shall begin with Desmond Lockwood.

The boy was a very ordinary boy; the only picture of him shows a charming smile. No one would or could have guessed what might follow.

Desmond Lockwood was a young building worker; he was 19. His pleasant attitude and demeanour suggests that he worked well. But he lost his job. It is unlikely that he lost it because of bad work or behaviour; in those days employers sacked and took on workers very casually.

So it was not a very remarkable thing to happen. But in Desmond Lockwood it caused a kind of rage, and he took the rejection as a personal slight from society. "Damn it," he said to his older brother "if that is the way they treat people, I'm not working any more." Nor did he, ever.

Now we turn to Karen Morgan.

She was a bright young woman, winning a place at Bexley Grammar School. But there was darkness in her, and she, like Desmond Lockwood, had decided that the darkness was where she wanted to be. So she, like Desmond Lockwood, rolled down the blinds. She was 16 years old when she went into her last stopping place, and she lived in the darkness for 13 years, and died in it.

The word that obviously comes to the surface, is of course "mad". It is much too easily spoken. Take first, Desmond Lockwood, when he decided to lock himself away. Did he think that he would remain self-immured for the rest of his life? Or was he just trying it on — making fools of the family? Remember his last words before he went into the cave: "Damn

When recluses become hermits, should we save them from themselves?

if, that is the way they treat people, I'm not working." How many hundreds of annoyed family members have thrown the milk-jug across the room and shouted "I'm never coming back!" And how many *didn't* come back? One in a hundred? One in a thousand?

Well, we know one now. Desmond Lockwood said he was not coming back, nor did he. So what did he do in the darkness, for thirty years? Well, he had television, but in those days — remember we are in 1966 — the fare would have been pretty thin and repetitive. Pause, reader, at that thought. We can collect bits and pieces from the hermit and his relatives; after all, he had to eat. It is said that he ate nothing but ice-cream and drank nothing but tea; surely he would have died from such a regimen? But it seems otherwise: the bonny lad who started this turned into a 15-stoner, but didn't die until he was 49. Mind you, his hair grew so long that it reached his waist, and he eventually sported a 2ft beard.

Yet there is no evidence that he yearned for the outside world; indeed when anyone came near him, he vanished immediately. Mad or sane, he lived as he wanted to live, and who should rebuke him?

The story of Karen Morgan is somewhat parallel, but in this case there is tragedy, very dark tragedy. Desmond Lockwood liked his strange home, but the girl's home was a hell. Not a hell thrust upon her, but one that she had taken to her bosom for herself. For 16 years she lived — if it could be called living — in her bedroom, and never came out, until the pitiful child came out dead.

There is no point in going over the details of the people who lived cheek by jowl with her and apparently did not notice the dreadful dying of Karen Morgan; suffice it to say that they must have been blind, deaf and stupid, until they noticed that she was dead.

But what about her relatives? Why

did they not notice? The answer is a terrible one, but one also that can be understood. The girl came from a working-class background; when their daughter became unhinged they did not immediately get in touch with the appropriate organisations, indeed they got in touch with nobody. Why? I said it was a working-class area; when their daughter became mentally ill, their immediate response was, in effect "What will the neighbours say?" — and for 16 years Karen Morgan's parents hid the terrible truth, because "they were too ashamed to talk about it to anyone".

Oh, great Heaven, when will such shame die out? The girl might — almost certainly could — have been saved. Saved, that is, from this:

She had been hidden from the world, suffering her own extreme personal torment in a bare first-floor bedroom. She slept on the floorboards with a bucket for a lavatory and her food was left on a tray outside the door.

Her brother mirrored her; he was also psychiatrically ill; he too did not venture out into the world for ten years, and when Karen Morgan died, he tried to kill himself.

There's nowt so queer as folk. Karen Morgan suffered as far as suffering can go, and was overlooked. Would you swear that Mr X, whom I see frequently in my neighbourhood, is not burning in dreadful torment? Ridiculous! Is it? How do you know? And if you are certain that there are no chalk-marks on the blackboard, well, what about those people whom I pass without a glance? How do we — you and I — know that perfect outsiders can be hell inside?

Where does the line run? And how far? A cheerful boy loses his job (but at a time when jobs are easily found) and walks into the darkness and stays there for the rest of his life. Nor does he chafe at the darkness; indeed, he lives with the darkness, and it is his lifeline, for what would he have been without television?

Where does the line run? And how

far? It does not run, apparently, with Karen Morgan, though it does run, happily, with Desmond Lockwood. A neighbour says: "It's a shame he chose to live like that. He missed out on such a lot." But did he? There is no sign of any newspaper in Desmond Lockwood's cave, can it be that he scorned not just the light and ordinary food, but everything that was going on in the real world? (Or what he would call the unreal world.)

And the girl with the terrible fate? Was that ordained? For that matter, did Desmond Lockwood ever see or hear of Karen Morgan? And reciprocally, did Karen Morgan ever cross the path of Desmond Lockwood? Does it matter? It might have mattered, if the two of them had been in the right place with the right words. For surely, if Desmond Lockwood had known the torments that Karen Morgan was suffering, he would surely have tumbled out of his strange cage to help.

The word "hermit" is a somewhat odd one. It is used, obviously, for someone who puts his head in the sand, but if we turn to the real meaning of the word, we find that it is almost always spoken warmly and with reverence. It is not surprising, because we have the image of a hermit in our minds: the cloak, the hat, the sandals, particularly the sandals — and of course those hermits who went on their Christian way barefoot. Surely there are hermits today — real ones? I wouldn't like to find them buzzing about in very small motorcars. But today I imagine that they keep their vows and do their good works (for who ever heard of a hermit who was a bully?) Would such a hermit clash with Desmond Lockwood and his strange hermitage? Or would our modern-day hermit turn immediately to do what he can for the tragic Karen Morgan? The latter, assuredly.

There's nowt so queer as folk. (Not least when I recall that the word "queer" used to mean homosexual.) We come back to where we started: we cannot know what triggered off Desmond Lockwood into a true hermit, and I wish I could bring back to proper life the pitiful Karen Morgan. One thing we may be assured of: there will be more hermits, odd ones and terrible ones, and we shall never quite know which is which. Oh, yes, indeed, there's definitely nowt so queer as folk.

Bernard Levin

## Give talk a chance in Ulster

Patrick Mayhew

says a consensus

is still possible

Events in Northern Ireland over the summer have shown that old prejudices can still erupt all too readily. In the past fortnight alone we have seen how destructive internal feuds can be — whether by way of death threats, murders or punishment beatings.

Yet the chief desire of most people in Northern Ireland is for a true peace and political stability. If this can be achieved, so many other objectives become more easily attainable. Primacy in the search for peace and political stability must be given to democratic politics. A settlement acceptable to the majority on both sides of the community has to come first.

That is a challenge I have always welcomed. Under the Prime Minister's determined leadership we have accepted political risks. Reverses have occurred. Yet we have been right to keep trying, and the net advance remains considerable. It is remarkable how widely this view is expressed. From a few reports one would think that everyone is saying we might as well give up. But they are not. Most want us to keep going.

Ultimately, any new political accommodation must be reached by consent. No such accommodation can be imposed from outside. The best means of expression can be found in local political structures, in which local politicians can share real responsibility.

This is why our efforts have been concentrated on producing a mechanism to enable local representatives to come together. All the issues that they think germane to reducing the instability in Northern Ireland should be on the agenda.

It is very clear that these issues extend beyond the borders of Northern Ireland. Nationalists in the North wish to have their Irish identity acknowledged and recognised in any new arrangements. Unionists wish no less to have their British identity recognised. They see the Anglo-Irish agreement as a destabilising factor. It is no less clear that most people in Northern Ireland wish to remain part of the United Kingdom, and I want to make it clear that it is a fact which we warmly welcome.

These are the present realities. The broader the scope of the talks, the better the chances of reaching a successful conclusion. The negotiations should surely be as inclusive as is practicable within the basic democratic principle that participants should use only the force of argument, and not the force of arms.

Despite its political mandate, however, Sinn Féin cannot participate in the negotiations in the absence of an IRA ceasefire. Equally, if Sinn Féin does not, after entry into the political process, demonstrate a total and absolute commitment to the principles of democracy and non-violence set out in the report of the international body, its continued involvement cannot be accepted.

It would be a serious disappointment if Sinn Féin, or for that matter the loyalist parties, were to fail to fulfil the conditions for participation, but it would not mean that the talks would lose their validity.

Even if a political accommodation did not lead directly to an end to violence, it might still greatly reduce the alienation, exclusion, fear and uncertainty on which the men of violence feed. It would give honourable and fair-minded people a greater common interest in standing up to extremists on either side. Firm, effective and even-handed policing can make more progress towards the total elimination of terrorism.

As to any limitation on the agenda — there should be none. Each participating party must have the right to set out and hold firm to points of principle, and to protect its key interests. All of this is reflected in the rules of procedure which the participants have now adopted. This is a crucially important advance. It has taken time, but it has been worthwhile.

Those taking part in the talks have settled upon a definition of agreement which is at once fair, imaginative and effective. They will make every effort to reach agreement by unanimity. But if that proves impossible they have agreed on a minimum standard of "sufficient consensus".

The key feature of "sufficient consensus" is that it makes it impossible to secure any outcome from the talks which is unacceptable to a majority in either of the two main political traditions in Northern Ireland. Additionally, any outcome will be put to the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum. Hence "sufficient consensus" is both a safeguard and a challenge.

The talks process is the realistic way forward from a system of direct rule that denies local responsibility, and has obviously harmful consequences for the politics in the Province. That is why the mood in Northern Ireland, and far more widely, is inclined to "give talk a chance". When the multi-party talks resume next Monday, we shall be doing just that.

Sir Patrick Mayhew is Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

## In the swim

PROJECT NORMA, the Government's bold attempt to field the Prime Minister's wife as a secret weapon for the election campaign, is to annex the airwaves. To win the hearts of the nation, Norma Major has taken Radio 4 on a tour of Chequers, during which she confesses to a personal failing. She has only just learnt to swim — using water wings.

In *Inside Chequers*, to be broadcast this month, Norma suggests that she can now swim like a dolphin after lessons in the swimming pool at Chequers: "I have learnt to swim since I have been here."

Linda Lally, head of the staff of *Wrens at Chequers*, elaborates: "I couldn't claim credit for teaching her to swim, because she taught herself," she says. "But I was there with her, because we do have a rule that you have to be with someone in the pool."

"She started initially with floats and one of those boards and then got into the water wings. She let a little bit of air out each day then eventually she cracked it. It was really nice. She enjoys going for her early morning swims."

No mention is made in the programme of the Prime Minis-

ter's own aquatic exploits, but the broadcast does reveal that Margaret Thatcher had a predilection for a special custard produced by the head chef at Chequers.

There is also talk of Boris Yeltsin's sleeping problems when he visited. The bed he slumbered in at Chequers, previously used by Stalin's right-hand man Molotov, was too small for his corpulent frame. It had to be rebuilt to hold the Russian leader.



"Who woke me up?"

They'll be hanging out hunting in No 10 next week when John Major reaches a milestone in his parliamentary career. Tuesday, September 10, will mark his 2,144th day in Downing Street — the half-way mark along the road to Margaret Thatcher's 4,227 days.

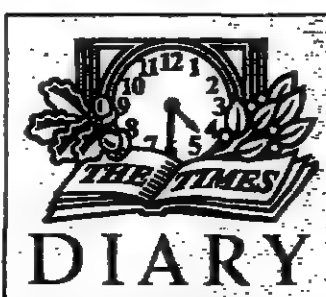
### Chaffinism

AN EXTRAORDINARY rumour concerning the very serious actor Ben Kingsley is doing the rounds backstage. Kingsley has just started filming a movie called *Photographing Fairies* at Ealing Studios, where he has been given the use of a driver.

The story goes that the driver can't get Kingsley's name right. He keeps calling him Bill, not Ben. And Kingsley, being a very on-bill sort of person, has taken such offence that he has asked for a new driver. Vigorous denials of the tale from the production company have yet to kill this ridiculous rumour-mongering.

### On the nose

GRIPPING news for readers of the new *Punch*, which was launched at a very sweaty party full of journalists at Harrods on Wednesday. The magazine's proprietor, Moh-



med Al Fayed, may yet contribute editorially. "Yes, I may write something when I have it up my sleeve," he threatened.

Al Fayed was in good heart, despite an act from Rory Bremner touching on a matter close to the Egyptian's heart: his rejected applications for British citizenship. "Some are born great," said Bremner, "some achieve greatness, and some are still waiting for a letter from the Passport Office."

### Pitch in

NEWS that the five nations' championship will now take place this season will cheer the groundsmen at Twickenham, who have had their work out of late after an invasion of foxes.

"We have had a bit of a problem with them getting in and digging

up the pitch in their hunt for worms," says a Rugby Football Union man. "But we have caught them humanely and released them into woodland areas."

Another threat to the pitch — a rash of field mushrooms — has been simpler to solve. The groundsmen pick them and fry them up for tea.

Ivana Trump, the fabulously wealthy beekeeper, is a lady who takes her wardrobe seriously. Even in her present predicament, suffering from a sprained ankle, details have to be just so. Too vain to use crutches, she has taken to hopping about New York in a strange, loping manner dragging her leg in plaster behind her. Not any old plaster, mind you. She refused to contemplate a regulation white cast and opted instead for designer blue — with sequins.

### Hanky ready

DRAMATIC NEWS. Dame Diana Rigg's daughter Rachel Stirling, a 19-year-old student of Russian and the history of art at Edinburgh University, is taking to the stage this month in her first leading role.

She will play Desdemona in the National Youth Theatre's production of *Othello* at the Bloomsbury Theatre in London — a role she has



O. Desdemona

been shaping up for ever since she took the star turn as Mary in a nativity play opposite a Joseph she simply couldn't stand.

Rachel has been taking tips from her Mum. "She gave me the script of *Othello* for my birthday, with lots of Post-it notes offering suggestions about posture and things," she says. "I do take her advice — when I agree."

P.H.S





## HEART AND HEAD

Mr Yeltsin is unwise to add to Russia's succession jitters

In old-established democracies, evasiveness is a tolerated political vice — unedifying but rarely capable of serious harm. In a polity as unproven as that of Russia, it can be highly destabilising. One consequence of years of systematic official suppression of information is that when people realise they are being once more kept in the dark, they automatically suspect a malign conspiracy. In the two months since his remarkable election victory, Boris Yeltsin has been almost invisible and, still more tellingly, inaudible even when — notably over Chechnya — a presidential decision was indispensable. The announcement that he is to undergo heart surgery later this month has the great merit of jangling with the voters.

Uncertainties of a different kind will not be so simply resolved. Mr Yeltsin has not been as inactive as he appeared to be during these weeks of relentless rumours. He has prepared the ground for this announcement carefully — notably by taking considerable, and characteristic, precautions to leave no one in the Kremlin a monopoly of the powers that he must inevitably delegate during what may well be a prolonged absence.

Some of these manoeuvres make sense. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, has been given clear authority to run the Government; but the key political figure in the coming months will be Anatoli Chubais, the economic reformer who did so much to ensure Mr Yeltsin's re-election and who has been appointed the Kremlin chief-of-staff.

The division of responsibilities between day-to-day government and political management is necessary because Russia's election season is not over. By law, all 89 regional governments in the Russian Federation must be democratically elected by the end of this year — and that means that in about 50 of them, elections are imminent. The Communists, who already dominate the Lower House of the federal Parliament, are geared for battle and Mr Chubais will have

his work cut out seeing them off. The results matter, both because uncooperative local bosses can sabotage reforms decided in Moscow and because the Upper House of the federal Parliament is made up of regional leaders. If the Communists sweep the board, Russia could become almost as ungovernable as it was before the show-down against Duma hardliners in 1993.

By contrast, Mr Yeltsin's treatment of Aleksandr Lebed, the general he swept into the Kremlin as secretary of the Security Council last June, shows how little the highly personalised nature of Kremlin power struggles has been transformed by electoral democracy. The creation of a new Defence Council, in which Mr Lebed is only one of several voices, was a prudent reaction to the former general's early, rash demands for ever wider powers. The same cannot be said for Mr Yeltsin's devious undermining of Mr Lebed's efforts to end the Chechnya conflict.

Whatever doubts Mr Yeltsin and his Government may have about the referendum Mr Lebed has offered on Chechnya's eventual status, that lies five years into the future. The immediate need, for the Russian military, for the republic's Chechen and many Russian citizens and for the Russian economy, is to end an unwinnable, unpopular and inordinately expensive conflict.

Mr Lebed has come close to a breakthrough, only to be humiliated by Mr Yeltsin's decision this week to heap honours on General Anatoli Kulakov, the Interior Minister whose troops have made such brutally incompetent work of handling the Chechen crisis. The President is all too obviously motivated by succession jitters. That can only make Russians more nervous, just when they need to be convinced that an effective, united Government is there to take the political strain. Mr Yeltsin has been brave about his health; but about his political future, he is showing himself as nervous as any Bolshevik.

## MAN AND MINOTAUR

When an English architect changed the boundaries of Europe

There are people to whom numbers talk, to whom the profit or loss in a page of figures is as clear as a friendly voice. There are people who solve anagrams in seconds and see the original design in a long-neglected garden. Some crack military codes; others are the first to read messages from the past.

The name of Michael Ventris, architect, wartime bomber navigator and designer of schools, is not much heard today. Yet, as a postwar amateur in a pool of sharp-toothed professionals, he pushed back the written origins of Europe: in 1952 he proved that unfamiliar scratches on 3,300-year-old Cretan clay tablets were Greek. The legendary King Minos, his labyrinth and maybe even his Minotaur, were suddenly within reach. The prehistoric was suddenly part of history.

The decipherment of Linear B was an inspirational act. It happened at around the same time as the first ascent of Everest and caught the same Coronation spirit. Before Ventris made his discovery the Mycenaeans were a speechless people known for their King, Agamemnon, their glorious golden treasures and a much-disputed place in mythology. After Ventris's pathbreaking "Work Note 20" the Mycenaeans became a people with a tongue; their tablets could tell once more about what had mattered to them, their accounts, their weapons, their sheep and the rations for their slaves.

Ventris, and his collaborator John Chadwick, used techniques which had been developed for tracking U-boats. They stared at the dull grey tablets, gave numbers to the most frequently occurring symbols and, while many scholars had failed to see a pattern and some had seen patterns that were false, Ventris saw the truth: Linear B was the earliest known form of Greek. The symbols belonged to the earlier Minoan

civilisation of Crete, the people famed for Minos their king, the Minotaur his nasty pet, and the labyrinth where the pet ate the king's enemies. But the language was the one which would become that of Homer and the first European enlightenment.

Like all radical visions, Ventris's decipherment met fierce conservative resistance, notably in Germany, Scotland and Greece itself. Only later, when the word for a three-legged cauldron coincided indisputably with a picture, were the doubters stilled. Some of the most rabidly sceptical remained so for the rest of their lives.

The subject matter of the Linear B tablets seems never to have extended beyond the bureaucratic and the domestic. Although we can read the words for "total" and "deficit", "sheep-pen" and even "labyrinth", the most significant parts of the tablets were always the parts denoting numbers. No poetry has ever been found; while subsequent decipherers have sought literature in the mysterious Phaistos Disc and other Cretan tablets still uncracked, none has had Ventris's instinct, fortune or eye.

The legacy of Michael Ventris includes the cadre of international scholars who have developed his work. Some are today discovering new tablets, showing how the unity of the Greek language extended over ever wider areas than previously thought. Some are identifying individual scribes who worked in the treasure-houses of Greek kings. Some work to understand the broader cultural boundary between the last Bronze Age years and the beginnings of classical civilisation. All of them, and many more besides, may wish to recall for a moment that, exactly 40 years ago today, Michael Ventris, aged 34, was killed in a car crash on the Great North Road.

## TIME LORDS

French ministers meddle with the clocks at their peril

The Gaullist French Government elected last year has broken the habit of consulting its neighbours and partners about anything and everything. Not content with displays of proud independence over the Middle East, the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has now abruptly decreed that France will be temporarily semidetached from the rest of the continent. The country's clocks will not go forward each spring. Summertime travellers crossing the Rhine between France and Germany will reset their watches as they cross the river.

To outsiders, it might seem a little perverse for France to be opting out of single European time when its Government is so doggedly insistent that it will be at the rendezvous for the single European currency. But the political heirs of General de Gaulle scorn such quibbles. For 30 years after the war and throughout de Gaulle's years in power, France shared Britain's summertime and stayed an hour behind its other neighbours. If it was good enough for the General, it is good enough for the 1990s.

M Juppé should beware. People whoinker with Europe's clocks tend to be either evangelists, German generals or dis-appointed energy savers: all have chafed at the restrictions of a discipline which did not

Republican Calendar which abolished weeks, Sundays and traditional nomenclature. The system was in use only six years.

More than a century after Benjamin Franklin first floated the idea in a whimsical moment in 1784, a London builder called William Willets urged Britain to adopt summertime. Willets's scheme was both logical and daft, a combination which tends to recur among people obsessed with improving time zones. Willets wanted to advance 80 minutes each spring in four separate changes of 20 minutes each. By the time his scheme was rejected by the House of Commons, the plan had been simplified to a single change of an hour.

At the height of the First World War and as the days grew longer in 1916, Germany put its clocks forward an hour. Britain struck back and did the same: if workers rose an hour earlier, they could work for an hour without having to turn lights on. For the two years of Germany's incomplete occupation of France in the next war, its troops kept German summer time in the occupied zone; Vichy France stayed an hour behind. In the 1970s, President Giscard d'Estaing hoped to soften the impact of the oil crisis by a further shift into line with the rest of Western Europe. But an extra hour of daylight was considered little or no fuel

## Whose responsibility is it to fund the performing arts?

From Mr Robert Ponsonby

Sir, It is noticeable that in sport and athletics we do rather badly because of seriously inadequate funding, while in the performing arts we do exceedingly well despite seriously inadequate funding.

To that extent we must welcome the pledge from Mary Allen, Secretary-General of the Arts Council ("Why we've relented", Arts, and leading article, September 3) that it will fight for the restoration of cuts in government grants and for the principle that lottery money must never replace state subsidy.

But what a mealy-mouthed statement it was in other respects. When literally hundreds of our musicians, actors and dancers live in recurrent uncertainty on low and fluctuating incomes, the Arts Council can think of nothing better than to set aside about £5 million — a small and suspect sum as your leading article the same day suggests — for the pilot phase of a "stabilisation programme" from which no more than 15 organisations will benefit.

In September next year the council will "consider a full programme". One wonders how many orchestras and theatre and dance companies will have gone under by then.

There is a crisis in the performing arts and the Arts Council should forthwith establish an emergency fund (deriving from lottery money). Then, when a breathing space has been secured, it should develop a strategy for revenue funding, again through the lottery. And, at this stage,

amateur bodies should not be eligible for support: our professionals must come first.

Perhaps the most depressing aspect of Ms Allen's statement was that she never once mentioned the quality of the work our artists do, nor of the need to sustain and enhance that quality.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT PONSONBY  
(Director, Music, BBC, 1972-85,  
Flat 4, 11 St Cuthbert's Road, NW2,  
September 3.)

From Mr Desmond Longfield

Sir, My main concern over the new Arts Council proposals is that, once again, they favour the large over the small and the theatre over the concert hall.

Music is very costly. Concerts are "one-off" events and their associated expenses are high. The cost of a London concert with orchestra is between £12,000 and £30,000. Ticket sales are unlikely to cover more than half, so the rest must be raised from sponsorship or corporate financial support.

As your report shows, such costs do not qualify for National Lottery grants at present, but the proposed rules outlined by Mary Allen would appear to perpetuate the exclusion of organisations, such as the one of which I am chairman, because of the minimum audience limit of 25,000 a year.

Our organisation has no fixed location, buildings or other capital assets on which to base an application for lottery funds.

There should surely be a source of funding for the smaller organisations

which form a major part of the musical activity of this country.

Yours faithfully,  
DESMOND LONGFIELD  
(Chairman, Corydon Orchestra  
and Singers Ltd),  
Pacombe Farm House,  
Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire,  
September 3.

From Professor Emeritus John Pick

Sir, Mary Allen gives an appealing picture of the 800 organisations sharing £500 million in lottery grants, but it is a highly partial one. A truer picture would also show the many groups which are spending vast amounts of time and money assembling a bid which meets the lottery's increasingly convoluted criteria, often losing their original vision in the process. It would show groups which have been successful in their bids now desperately trying to attract matching funds from the increasingly barren private sector.

Ms Allen is right to say that, for most arts organisations, costs are rising and revenue shrinking. What she might have added is that increased costs are partly caused by the need to pay the army of officers, advisers, consultants and assessors that has sprung up to service the lottery, and whose ministrations are now inseparable from making a lottery bid.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PICK,  
Willow Cottage,  
20 High Street, Sutton on Trent,  
Newark, Nottinghamshire,  
September 3.

## Party democracy

From Mr Paul Richards

Sir, It is a trifle rich for a Conservative, Mr John E. Stratford (letter, September 2), to describe the Labour Party's internal workings as a "sham democracy".

The Labour Party has a system of one member, one vote which empowers every party member. Individuals can vote for the party leader, representatives on the national executive and parliamentary candidates. We are in the middle of a process which will give up to 400,000 party members a say on the election manifesto. Labour is even releasing the names of business donors to party coffers in the interests of openness (report, August 27).

By contrast, Conservative Association members cannot vote for the party leader, nor for candidates. The Tory manifesto is drawn up in secret and donations to the party are shrouded in secrecy. If Mr Stratford's Campaign for Conservative Party Democracy is demanding changes to party structures, he might start with a demand to open Central Office accounts to public scrutiny.

I remain, Sir, etc.  
PAUL RICHARDS  
(Labour prospective parliamentary  
candidate for Billericay),  
109 Hammersmith Bridge Road, W6,  
September 4.

## Royal divorce

From Mr Ian Curtis

Sir, I am very much saddened by the peevish tone of some of your correspondents who write today about the Prince of Wales's future (see also, letters, September 5).

I urge them to base their judgment not on how the media present him, but on his own words. His book, *A Vision of Britain*, ostensibly about architecture but in effect an extended metaphor and blueprint of his values as our future King; the actual wording of his speeches and articles, not how some sections of the press dish them up; and his diaries as quoted in David Dimbleby's biography — all mark him out as the most intelligent and cultivated member of the Royal Family, certainly since Prince Albert and probably since Charles I.

He is an exceptional man in an exceptional job and we are lucky far beyond our deserts to have him.

Yours truly,  
IAN CURTIS,  
The Mill House, Cohn St Aldwyns,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,  
September 3.

## Death on the roads

From Mr Martin Lyth

Sir, On August 31 you published a souvenir edition of your supplement, Car 96, marking the celebration in Coventry of a century of motoring. There is indeed cause to celebrate the ease and freedom of travel, undreamt of 100 years ago, and the employment that the car industry has created. But we should not forget the cost.

This edition does not mention the escalating toll on the environment — ie, that since August 17, 1990, there have been 500,000 road deaths in Britain and 30 million people injured.

How can we be so complacent about these figures whilst headlines are filled and governments are rocked by a dozen deaths that may have been due to "mad cow" disease?

Measures are urgently needed to reduce the appalling human cost of motoring.

Yours faithfully,  
M. LYTH.

## Innovation investment

From Professor George D. W. Smith, FRS

Sir, The inadequacy of the current handling of innovation in Britain has been highlighted in your columns in recent weeks, as exemplified by the experiences of Sir Frank Whittle and Sir Christopher Cockerell (letters, August 15, 21, 26, September 1). Now we need to consider what can be done to improve the situation.

One specific proposal would be to reform the tax treatment of research and development (R&D) expenditure. At present, there is no mechanism to allow companies to roll forward funds from one year to another for reinvestment in R&D. Only current-year expenditure is allowed. All other "profits" are immediately subject to corporation tax. This is an absurdity, especially for high-technology industry, where the total product lifetime is often about five years.

Funds need to be accumulated within the company during the early years of the product cycle, in order to develop the product. Expenditure is not uniform over the life cycle — it is peaked heavily towards the end. Many innovative small companies in this country never survive to produce a second-generation product.

## At arm's length

From Mr David Montrose

Sir, It may have been amusing that Mr J. R. Thompson's florist used the same traditional method to measure out six metres of ribbon, as she would previously have done to measure out six yards (letter, September 2); but I bet she charged him for the non-existent twenty or so inches (or fifty-one-and-a-bit centimetres) extra.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MONTROSE,  
30 Caverswall Road,  
Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire,  
September 2.

From Mr A. Osbaldiston

Sir, Mr John Thompson may have got six yards or six metres of ribbon depending on the way the assistant looked when measuring.

A yard's length was frequently measured from the tip of the nose, when looking straight ahead, to the end of an outstretched arm.

If the assistant liked you they often looked away from the outstretched arm — one metre, or alternatively, if they disliked you, looked towards the outstretched arm — less than a yard.

Yours sincerely,  
A. OSBALDISTON,  
Kinder, Pinkham Lane,  
Clebury Mortimer,  
Kidderminster, Worcestershire,  
September 3.

From Mr John E. Collins

Sir, A florist friend of mine was told by the local weights and measures inspector that the scratched one metre marks on his counter were not acceptable, even though his ribbon was sold in yards and measured in metres to avoid overcharging.

When the florist pointed out that the cost of the required regulation-stamped brass metre measure would take a couple of years to recoup with the small amount of ribbon he sold, the inspector advised that there was no need to use a standard measure; ribbon could be sold by "the length".

Now my friend uses the original scratched marks on his counter and tells the customer that they represent one length — all perfectly legal apparently.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN E. COLLINS.

Present tax rules are a key reason for this. Paradoxically, there are excellent mechanisms for siphoning funds out of companies (eg, tax-exempt pension funds) and on the capital account side there is an entrepreneur's allowance which aids the buying and selling of small companies. But at present there is no equivalent allowance on the revenue account, although a scheme parallel to that for the capital account would be very easy to devise.

A proposal to allow deferral of taxation on profits derived from R&D which are reinvested in such expenditure was put to the House of Commons Standing Committee D in March 1995 by Mr Stephen Timmins, MP, as an amendment to the 1995 Finance Bill. However, the amendment was withdrawn after the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Sir George Young, promised to keep the whole matter under review. Nothing has been heard of it since.

It's time to take another look at this. Which political party will be first to offer assistance to UK companies (especially smaller enterprises) to innovate?

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE SMITH,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Materials,  
Parks Road, Oxford,  
September 2.

## Irish conservation

From Mrs F. M. Patterson

Sir, I feel I must reply to remarks by Michael Harrington, Chairman of Cork County Council, about "foreigners" who have objected to new developments in the Beara peninsula. Co Cork (report, August 26).

I am not a foreigner — I was born and educated on the West Coast — but I feel exactly as these "blow-ins" do.

I visit Co Sligo as often as possible and am appalled at the number of new "eyesores" — snow-white Spanish-style bungalows with arches, which seem to spring up like mushrooms. They sit out so prominently on the most picturesque locations.

In contrast, right on the coast of Sligo, in Yeats country, there are some beautifully restored houses and old school houses, which Germans have worked long and hard to make into beautiful homes.

There must be some control on the siting of these new monstrosities. On this issue I am entirely on the side of anyone who is trying to protect our beautiful countryside.

Yours sincerely,  
F. M. PATTERSON,  
34 Larne Road,  
Carrickfergus, Co Antrim.

## ID card security

From Mrs Jill Paton Walsh

Sir, Ann Widdecombe's reassurances about the security of the new identity cards (letter, September 4) are very far from reassuring. We are to be asked to carry cards bearing encoded information which we cannot ourselves read?

Before we create the means for a detailed and unchallengeable surveillance, however benign the announced purpose of such a system, we should ask ourselves if we can think, in the course of history, of a single example of a power once created not used, once used not abused?

Yours sincerely,  
JILL PATON WALSH,  
72 Water Lane, Histon, Cambridge,  
September 4.

Business letters, page 27

Letters to the Editor should...

## 'Stable future' for Naval College

From Dame Jennifer Jenkins

Sir, I was surprised that Libby Purves should suggest that the group advising on the future of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, which I chaired and whose report was not as she says, a "government report", virtually ignored the National Maritime Museum ("Greenwich is still in peril," September 4). In fact the report proposed that the museum should be involved in future arrangements and that some of its collection of paintings and artefacts should be displayed in the college.

We did not, however, recommend that the museum should — as it wished — be directly responsible for the Painted Hall and the chapel. This responsibility, we felt, should rest with the charitable trust which is to take on a head lease of the Royal Naval College with the tasks of securing public access to the site and of ensuring its preservation as a whole. The trust may of course use the museum as an agent for managing the Painted Hall, but that must be for them to decide.

I have every confidence that the University of Greenwich, which was the only organisation to submit detailed plans supported by adequate funding for occupying the four central blocks of the college, will offer a stable and coherent future for this magnificent complex of buildings. The proposed use will be almost the same as now and require little alteration to the fabric.

I believe that the university and the museum, working in close partnership as they intend, will have a unique opportunity to create a centre of international importance for maritime research and studies in London's architectural masterpiece by the Thames.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNIFER JENKINS,  
2 Kensington Park Gardens, W11,  
September 5.

From the Reverend Basil Watson

Sir, Your report (September 3) on what I regard as the continuing shambles in the arrangements for the future of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich fill me with the sort of dismay that only such a botched-up job can do.

The Ministry of Defence clearly has no heart for what so many cherish as our stirring maritime tradition; and National Heritage reveals little concern for the glories of our Wren buildings or it would never leave the future financing of such a site to flimsy chance.

Greenwich is much too significant in our national life to get such cavalier treatment. It can never be too late, surely, to think again from the beginning on an issue of such magnitude.

Yours faithfully,  
BASIL WATSON,  
(Chaplain and History Tutor,  
Royal Naval College, 1952-55),  
19 Straightsmouth, Greenwich, SE10,  
September 3.

## Berners on record

From Mr Frederick Barker

Sir, "When did you last hear any Lord Berners?" asks Rodney Milnes (Arts, August 31). This morning, as it happens, there are now several CDs of Berners's inventive orchestral work (praised by Stravinsky) — and one hopes that there will soon be a re-issue of the record which collected a number of his diverse small-scale works such as an excellent polka for piano and the mock music-hall song, *Come On, Algerian*.

If his novels are curiosities, Berners's memoirs certainly make enjoyable reading and one would welcome an exhibition of his paintings. Such free-ranging spirits are all too rare nowadays.

Yours faithfully,  
FREDERICK BARKER,  
41 Bagworth Road,  
Newbold Heath, Leicestershire,  
August 31.

## Street signs

From Sir Donald Tebbitt

Sir, The richly deserved tributes to Phyllis Pearsall (Obituary, August 29) highlight the contrast between the excellence of modern A-Z street maps and the inadequate signing of the streets themselves.

At most street corners you will be able to discover fairly easily the name of the side street you are passing. But will you be able to discover the name of the main road you are already on? Not for miles!

Yours sincerely,  
DONALD TEBBITT,  
Priory Cottage,  
Church Road, Toft, Cambridge,  
September 1.

## Unholy risk

From the Reverend David Smith

Sir, Alan Coren is not alone (article, September 4), I, too, was refused home insurance by a "direct" company after I told them my house could occasionally be used for meetings of Anglican clergy. Are they confusing a "house of prayer" with a "den of thieves"?

I am now insured by Ecclesiastical.

Yours sincerely,











## NEWS

## Major called as witness in libel case

John Major and Michael Heseltine have been asked to appear as witnesses in a £1 million libel case next month. They have been subpoenaed by *The Guardian* newspaper, along with the Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler and the former Chief Whip Richard Ryder, to give evidence in a case being brought by the Conservative MP Neil Hamilton.

If he attended, Mr Major would be the first Prime Minister to be required to give evidence in court, although his lawyers may contest the subpoena. Page 1

## England return to five nations rugby

The five nations' championship was saved yesterday at a meeting between representatives of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. The championship was in danger because the Celtic nations threatened to expel England. Pages 1, 44

## Heart op for Yeltsin

President Yeltsin has announced that he will undergo a heart operation later this month to treat a year-old affliction. Pages 1, 12

## New threat to Kurds

Turkish warplanes have attacked suspected bases of Turkish Kurds inside the safe area of northern Iraq. Pages 1, 13

## Losing their glow

A research project to find ways to raise luminous creatures in captivity has come to a standstill for lack of funds. Page 1

## Tax offensive

Kenneth Clarke led the Tory assault on Labour's tax policy, claiming that the average family will be £700 a year better off by next year. Page 2

## Stolen heart

A teenage girl held hostage with her family for four hours by a gang secretly dated one of the robbers for three weeks before telling police. Page 3

## All in the game

A board game that kept the Romans amused during the centuries has been found laid out and ready to play in a 2,000-year-old burial site in Essex. Page 3

## Diplomat faces jail

Robert Coughlan, a senior British diplomat, faces a seven-year prison sentence for smuggling paedophile videos into Britain. Page 5

## America bored by Oasis bad boy act

An attempt by Liam Gallagher, the lead singer of Oasis, to extend his notoriety across the Atlantic has fallen flat. Gallagher spat, clutched his crotch and swore during an awards ceremony in New York but his antics were largely ignored by the audience and the press, who seemed surprised that he had bothered to show up at all. Page 10



Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, left, with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, in London yesterday

## BUSINESS

Economy: Britain's high streets are now seeing their best business since the late 1980s, according to the CBI. Page 23

Lombard: Lombard is delaying the £700 million stockmarket flotation of its hotel division and is considering making a trade sale instead. Page 23

Bad weather: A sharp increase in worldwide weather claims dented pre-tax profits for Royal and Sun Alliance as it reported its first interim results as a merged company. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 14.5 points to close at 3887.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 85.6 to 85.8 after a rise from \$1.5658 to \$1.5680 and from DM2.3202 to DM2.3280. Page 26

## SPORT

Motor racing: Damon Hill said that his dismissal by the Williams team had only served to increase his determination to win the world drivers' championship. Page 44

Cricket: Michael Atherton will captain England on their winter tour to Zimbabwe and New Zealand. He has led England 35 times since 1993. Page 44

Football: The 15 Premiership clubs in the second round of the Coca-Cola Cup have all drawn lower-division opposition. Chelsea visit Blackpool and Middlesbrough go to Hereford. Page 41

Equestrianism: Mary King's run of success continued when she and Star Appeal took a comfortable lead on the first day of the Burghley Horse Trials. Page 41

## ARTS

Dream team: London sees a pair of *Midsummer Night's Dreams*: Yukio Ninagawa's production at the Mermaid and Northern Broad-sides at the Globe. Page 31

Second chances: In a new initiative, the British Film Institute is to offer professional public readings of British film scripts awaiting the kiss of life. Page 31

Musical treats: David Freeman stages *The Magic Flute* on the South Bank; while the Albert Hall hears new works by James MacMillan and James Dillon. Page 32

Pop on Friday: The Pet Shop Boys go to touch South American on their fine new album *Bilingual*, while REM find a new lease of magic in the potent brew of their *New Adventures in Hi-Fi*. Page 33

## FEATURES

Valerie Grove talks to Antonia Fraser about her much-praised book *The Gunpowder Plot*. "I find the burning of effigies disgusting," she says. Page 17

Wrong soap: Tony Blair popped into *Coronation Street* last week but, says Candida Crewe, he should have chosen *EastEnders*. Page 16

Poison pen: Amanda Craig's new book has had writers searching for themselves among the characters. Page 16

Too much: More and more teachers are leaving the profession because they are unable to withstand the increasing pressures and stress at work. Page 35

Comprehensive success: Malbank school beat Haileybury and Stowe in A-level rankings, even though it increased its numbers of pupils. Page 35

The French have been subject to the economic crisis for six years. Economic growth is dragging. Unemployment is not falling. Revenues are stagnating. Tax and social security charges have done nothing but grow. That is enough to explain the despondency which has seized the country. For months, many French people have felt as if they are rowing against the current. — Le Figaro

## TOMORROW

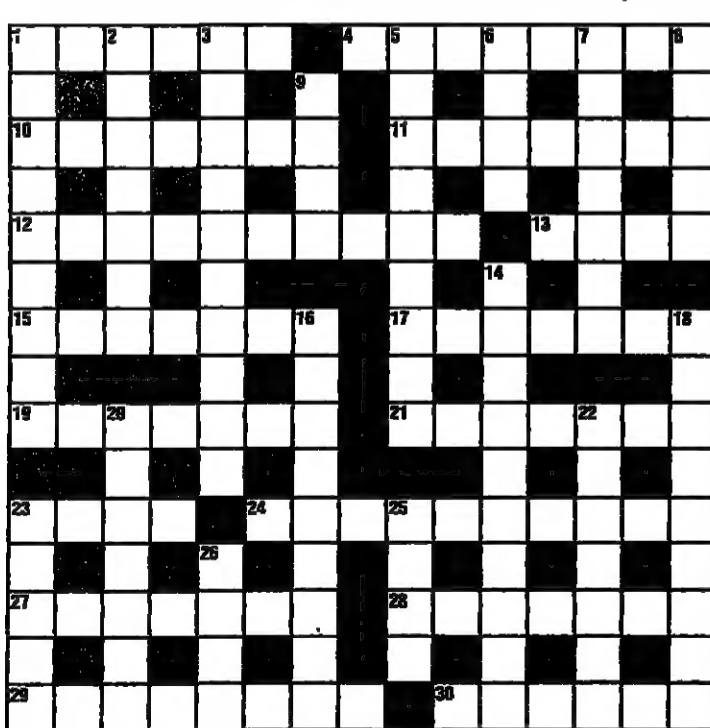
## IN THE TIMES

JANE'S WORLD  
Rachel Billington  
on writing the sequel  
to *Emma*, in the  
Magazine

WIN A TV  
£1,600 television and  
VCR to be won in 10 15,  
the magazine for  
young Times readers



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,266



- ACROSS
- Edging hoop with iron on the outside (6).
  - Victory for Athenians, in the long run (8).
  - A large number failing to finish course of therapy (7).
  - One or two roads (7).
  - Club employee who appreciates a good deal in his job (10).
  - I have succeeded as a composer (4).
  - Results of explosions in the news (7).
  - Gear engineers installed in alarm (7).
  - Make it come next (7).
  - Mixed fruit flavour the Spanish love (7).
  - State of ignorance that's not fair (4).
  - Badly timed deals disturbed region (6,4).
- DOWN
- Dress uniform? Not (7).
  - Tilly play around at this level of society (7).
  - In an excited state, taking a gamble (8).
  - One's not going to be a good long-distance runner (6).
  - Light up factory with spectacular display (9).
  - Exclusive company pouring out (2,5).
  - Animal protector's retreat after plucky fighting (4,6).
  - Barrow's Shavian production (9).
  - It's a northern-facing wine area (4).
  - Still we hang about (7).
  - Poet's contradictory responses (5).
  - Embarrassing spelling mistake? That's a big blow (4).
  - Everyone knows about this easy cryptic (4,6).
  - Party to children not the most important thing (4,5).
  - Performer in the round much more impressive than Petruccio (4,5).
  - Composer about to go on ship (7).
  - Demand pound - the ultimate in usury - no more or less (7).
  - House where it's okay for Russians to take a drink (5).
  - Section of newspaper writer works on (4).
  - Formal order - about one gross (4).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,265

MANICURE CATSUP  
O E O O F T W U  
L I V E R P O O L S T R E E T  
E S S A T I O N  
C O U R A N T T O R P E D O  
H M S T E S  
F I R E S I D E D R A K E  
W O L D E R N R I A  
R E C I P E A R S Y S T E M  
P A T I A A I  
L A B O U R I N T E N S I V E  
A E R D T C R N  
Y O R K E R W I D E E Y E D

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours, a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	7/12
East of London	7/12
West of London	7/12
South East	7/12
South West	7/12
West Midlands	7/12
East Midlands	7/12
North East	7/12
North West	7/12
Yorkshire & the Humber	7/12
East of England	7/12
West of England	7/12
South East of England	7/12
South West of England	7/12
Wales	7/12
Scotland	7/12
Northern Ireland	7/12
Republic of Ireland	7/12

Weather is changed at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Information
London & SE traffic, roadworks	721
Area within M25	722
North/Southbound M25	723
West/Southbound M25	724
North/Southbound M25	725
West/Southbound M25	726
North/Southbound M25	727
West/Southbound M25	728
North/Southbound M25	729
West/Southbound M25	730
North/Southbound M25	731
West/Southbound M25	732
North/Southbound M25	733
West/Southbound M25	734
North/Southbound M25	735
West/Southbound M25	736
North/Southbound M25	737
West/Southbound M25	738
North/Southbound M25	739
West/Southbound M25	740
North/Southbound M25	741
West/Southbound M25	742
North/Southbound M25	743
West/Southbound M25	744
North/Southbound M25	745
West/Southbound M25	746
North/Southbound M25	747
West/Southbound M25	748
North/Southbound M25	749
West/Southbound M25	750

AA Roadwatch is changed at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at other times.

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Location	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Bristol	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Cardiff	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Edinburgh	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Glasgow	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Manchester	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Newcastle	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Nottingham	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Sheffield	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Southampton	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Stoke-on-Trent	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Swansea	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Torquay	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Weymouth	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Wolverhampton	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Worcester	6:21 am	7:35 pm
Wrexham	6:21 am	7:35 pm

## FORECAST

General: many sheltered places in England and Wales may have a misty start. There will be some good sunny periods generally but near some east coasts patchy cloud may give the odd spot of drizzle. Winds will be light generally but in the southeast a brisk northerly wind is likely.

The Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland may be rather cloudy with some patchy drizzle. Elsewhere on Scotland and Northern Ireland, after the clearance of any overnight mist, the day should generally be bright and dry with sunny intervals.

London, SE England, E Anglia: bright, dry, sunny periods. Winds brisk, northerly. Max 19C (66F).

Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: bright, dry, sunny periods. Winds light, east or north-east. Max 18C (64F).

NE Scotland, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: cloudy with patchy drizzle in places. Some bright intervals. Winds light, variable or easterly. Max 18C (64F).

NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy at times, patchy drizzle. Winds light, variable or southerly. Cool. Max 14C (57F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: generally settled and dry.

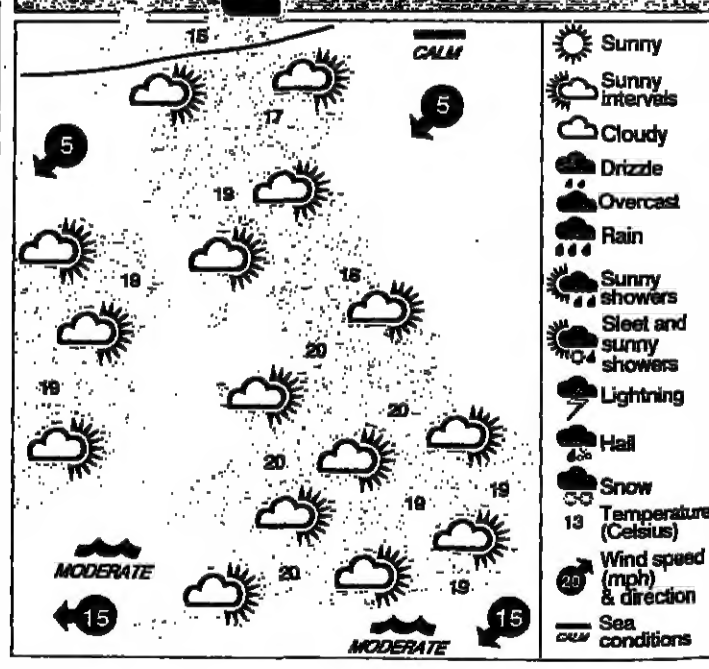
## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
London	12	10	10	0	15	8
Birmingham	11	10	10	0	14	7
Manchester	10	10	10	0	13	6
Cardiff	11	10	10	0	14	7
Edinburgh	10	10	10	0	13	6
Glasgow	10	10	10	0	13	6
Newcastle	11	10	10	0	14	7
Nottingham	11	10	10	0	14	7
Sheffield	11	10	10	0	14	7
Southampton	12	10	10	0	15	8
Stoke-on-Trent	11	10	10	0	14	7
Swansea	12	10	10	0	15	8
Torquay	13	10	10	0	16	9
Weymouth	12	10	10	0	15	8
Wolverhampton	11	10	10	0	14	7
Worcester	11	10	10	0	14	7
Wrexham	11	10	10	0	14	7

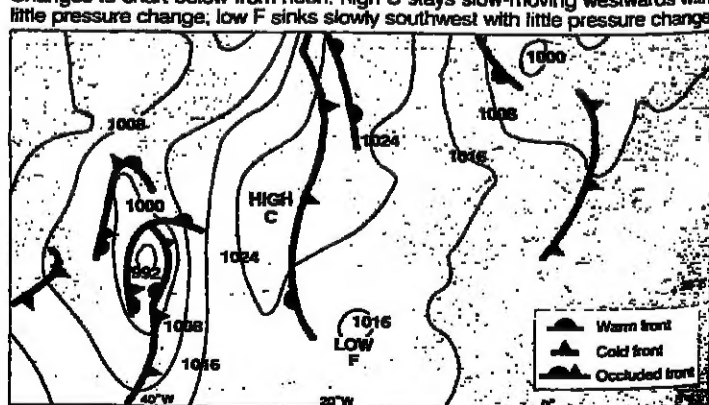
## ABROAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
Algeria	23	7	3	0	27	19
Amman	20	8	3	0	24	16
Baghdad	28	10	3	0	32	24
Bangkok	30	10	3	0	34	26
Bombay	30	10	3	0	34	26
Buenos Aires	20	10	3	0	24	16
Calcutta	30	10	3	0	34	26
Cairo	28	10	3	0	32	24
Colon	28	10	3	0	32	24
Hong Kong	28	10	3	0	32	24
Jaipur	30	10	3	0	34	26
London	12	10	10	0	15	8
Los Angeles	20	10	3	0	24	16
Madras	30	10	3	0	34	26
Manila	30	10	3	0	34	26
Mexico City	20	10	3	0	24	16
Mumbai	30	10	3	0	34	26
New Delhi	30	10	3	0	34	26
Paris	12	10	10	0	15	8
Rangoon	30	10	3	0	34	26
San Francisco	15	10	10	0	19	11
Singapore	30	10	3	0	34	26
Tokyo	20	10	3	0	24	16
Winnipeg	10	10	10	0	13	6
Zurich	12	10	10	0	15	8

## WIND TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high C stays slow-moving westwards with little pressure change, low F sinks slowly southwest with little pressure change



## HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
London	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Liverpool	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Manchester	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Cardiff	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Edinburgh	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Glasgow	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Newcastle	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Nottingham	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Sheffield	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Southampton	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Stoke-on-Trent	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Swansea	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Torquay	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Weymouth	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Wolverhampton	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Worcester	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7
Wrexham	7:18	5.9	8:06	5.8	8:44	5.7

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: New, East Sussex, and Heathrow Airport, 23C (73F); lowest day temp: Lowest, 12C (54F); highest night temp: Lowest, 12C (54F); highest night temp: Lowest, 12C (54F).

## RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 6 SEPTEMBER 1996

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	474
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	2,534
Cost to RNLI per day:	£173,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210

Lifeboats  
Royal National Lifeboat Institution  
Reg. Charity No 209043

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Judge names

Lifeboats